AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

MAY 1942

THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK MONTHLY

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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

(Published monthly at 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado, by American National Live Stock Association Publishing Company. Entered as second-class matter June 11, 1919, at Post Office, Denver, under Act of March 3, 1897. Acceptance for mailing at special postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on September 21, 1921. Subscription price: U. S., \$1.00 a year; Canadian and foreign, \$1.50.)

Volume XXIII

MAY, 1942

Number 12

More Meat for National Defense

By J. Q. PETERSON

Chief of Information, Grazing Service

UNCLE SAM HAS NEED FOR INcreased quantities of beef and lamb to meet the requirements of marching troops. He has need for more wool to make warm uniforms and blankets, more leather for sturdy shoes.

The western livestock industry dependent upon public lands has pledged itself to meet its share of the increased demands of the national defense program, but it is faced with the problem of doing so without an increase in numbers of livestock on the public ranges of the West. Overcrowding the ranges in patriotic zeal, as was done during the last World War, would not only destroy the productiveness of the ranges for many years to come but would disturb the stability and balance in the western livestock industry that the past six or seven years of regulated use and conservative practices have brought about.

If the western stockman cannot in-

crease the size of his herds, how then can he increase his share of the national production of meat and wool and hides?

The answer to this is found in better husbandry and better management of range and stock.

Proof that this solution brings not only an increased supply of meat and meat products but at the same time keeps balance and stability in livestock operations and permits continued conservation and restoration of the public range lands is found in reports from livestock operators that frequently reach the office of the director of grazing in Salt Lake City, Utah.

An outstanding example of increased net returns from properly stocked ranges comes from the Victorio Land and Cattle Company in New Mexico which is supervised by J. L. (Jim) Black. The records of this company show that during the eight-year period previous

to Mr. Black's management, 1926 to 1933, the company ran a yearly average of 18,819 breeding cows on the Animas unit of the Border District of New Mexico with a 47 per cent calf crop, weighing an average of 244 pounds each and a total of 2,158,180 pounds per year. This was under open range conditions. During the first four years of Mr. Black's supervision but still under open range conditions, 1934 to 1937, he operated an average of 8,674 breeding cows producing a 66 per cent calf crop, weighing an average of 341 pounds each and a total of 1,952,225 pounds per year. During the last four years, 1938 to 1941, he operated an average of 6,190 breeding cows producing a 91 per cent calf crop, weighing an average of 445 pounds each and a total of 2,506,685 pounds per year. The last four-year period was operated under fenced range, according to allotment from the Grazing Service.



A small bunch gets the personal inspection of Manager Black.



Part of the 4,000 head in the November, 1940, round-up on the Animas unit of the Victoria Land and Cattle Company.

Not only do the records reflect this amazing increase in beef production, but range surveys conducted by the Grazing Service in 1937 and again in 1941 show an average increase of approximately 20 per cent in forage production brought about by proper stocking and management of range and stock.

The gain in beef production by the Victorio Land and Cattle Company, according to Mr. Black, is due not alone to the reduction in numbers but to a combination of a number of management practices. Possibly some of these practices would properly apply only to the Southwest and some of them may seem to be unwarranted to other operators and under other circumstances. Mr. Black, however, has succeeded in getting what appears to be a maximum return from the land consistent with proper soil and moisture conservation. A study of his plan brings out the following practices:

1. The reduction of livestock to meet the proper carrying capacity of the range.

2. The construction of exterior and interior fences to gain proper distribution and seasonal control. (Increasing results beginning in 1937 coincide with Grazing Service establishment of individual allotments and issuance of fencing permits.)

3. The use of better bulls to improve the quality of the herd. (Registered range-bred bulls from Colorado and New Mexico herds have been used in building up the quality of the Victorio Land and Cattle Company herd.)

4. Careful culling of inferior grades.
5. Supplemental feeding of concentrates in periods of the year when forage is low in protein value.

6. A strict five-month control of the breeding season to obtain an early calf crop and uniformity of weight. Only part of the bulls are turned with the cows on April 1 and additional ones at two- to three-week intervals during the first three months of the breeding sea-

son. By this practice, calves are ready to wean in October, giving the mother cow a chance to rebuild herself while feed is yet strong and before winter sets in, and it is possible to sell 95 per cent of the calf crop in October with the remainder ready to wean in December. Bulls are disposed of at five to six years old to insure virile and active breeders.

7. Keeping only the largest and bestdeveloped heifer calves for replacements, on the theory that the mother of such a calf is a good milker and an early calver or the calf would not have reached maximum weight.

8. Putting the choicest weaner heifers kept for replacement on fresh pastures where they are fed concentrates a big share of the winter in order to reach maximum growth.

9. Pushing these heifers until they are two years old before they are bred. This practice has resulted in the development of a heifer to 900 pounds before she drops her first calf when she is three years old.

10. Developing sufficient stock water to get proper distribution over the range. (Mr. Black believes that clean, cool water is a big factor in beef production. He has eliminated large watering troughs and substituted small concrete troughs that can be easily cleaned. Water coming from the bottom of the supply reservoir is cool, fresh, and clean during hot summer months.)

11. Using 20 per cent bone meal salt mixture to make up for any deficiency of minerals in the forage.

12. Careful elimination each year of non-breeders, and the many other usual good range and stock management practices followed by all successful livestock growers.

These dozen factors resulted in an outstanding increased return in beef for the Victorio outfit, as previously indicated. They also resulted in range recovery, in a 50 per cent reduction in death loss, and in a 40 per cent reduc-

tion in expenditure for bulls. The overall costs of production were likewise reduced proportionately. forty mean horse Th natu herd water

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What has been done on the Victorio Land and Cattle Company ranch can be and is being done on ranches throughout the range country. By refraining from expanding their herds but rather improving their breeding stock and maintaining this stock under better conditions and management practices, western livestock operators are able to obtain greater production of meat and meat products to meet the greater national need. Incidental to this primary achievement, they are able to obtain a greater margin of profit with less drain on the natural range forage resources.

LITTLE CHANGE IN GRAZING ON INTERMOUNTAIN FORESTS

Following meetings of nearly all the 275 organized livestock associations representing 9,900 permittees who graze sheep, cattle, and horses on national forest ranges of the intermountain region, indications are that few changes in numbers grazed on the forests will be made over 1941 figures, according to C. N. Woods, Ogden, Utah, regional forester for the Department of Agriculture. Grazing permits will be issued in 1942 for about 2,073,000 sheep and 315,000 cattle and horses. About two-thirds of the 30,000,000-acre area within intermountain national forests is used by livestock, the remainder being largely barren or inaccessible. Grazing seasons vary widely throughout the national forest ranges of Utah, Nevada, Idaho, and western Wyoming, depending in part on local climate and elevation, Mr. Woods said. Readiness of range plants for grazing should largely determine schedule of opening dates, which vary from April 1 to July 1 to take care of a great diversity of local range conditions. Closing dates begin September 15 and extend to about November 1.

GOOD HORSES ESSENTIAL TO CATTLE RANCHES

By WAYNE DINSMORE

Secretary, Horse and Mule Association of America

CATTLEMEN TAKE PRIDE IN HAVing good riding horses, well suited for the work that must be done on their ranges. Some report they have one riding horse in use under saddle for each forty, fifty, or sixty cattle they own. This means twenty-five, twenty, or sixteen horses per 1,000 cattle.

The number required varies with the nature of the range, size of ranch and herd, and extent of fencing. Men who watch their herds closely and who try to see every hoof at least every other day—and every day at calving time—require the larger number of mounts.

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Most outfits assign five riding horses to each cowboy or vaquero, with seven mounts assigned to men who do cutting or roping. This means that each horse, ridden in turn, does half a day's work, then has nothing to do for two days except to build up his strength on grass. Cutting horses generally are used only for cutting about two hours per day and are ridden alternate days.

Fewer horses would do the work if they were fed grain, but it is cheaper and easier to furnish more horses and let them live on grass alone.

This plan requires a good middle—a roomy barrel—that can carry and digest enough prairie grass to keep the horses in excellent condition.

Along with ability to live on what grass is available, most ranchmen emphasize "surefootedness," medium size, weight carrying capacity, speed enough to head any cattle beast in a short dash, agility in turning, and "cattle sense," the last term really meaning the intelligence quickly to learn what the rider wants to do when working with cattle and to do it with a minimum of rein guidance.

Most of the horses that are rated as exceptional mounts, fulfilling the above requirements, are about 15 to 15.1 hands in height (60 to 61 inches at the withers), weigh from 1,000 to 1,100 pounds-some up to 1,200, though rarely-and have an excellent set of legs, adequate slope of pasterns, good feet, and travel straight when viewed from front or rear. A good straight way of going is especially important, as it reduces likelihood of interference, fetlock injuries, and tendency to stumble. Enough hot blood from the Arab, Thoroughbred, or Quarter Horse is needed to give mounts quality, speed, and endurance. These three breeds are so intimately related in blood that they can be used as desired in breeding up a remuda of cow-horses, providing close attention is given to selecting sires with the desired type, size, and disposition.

Some of the best horses the writer has seen on cattle ranches recently were from a foundation of old Spanish mares from Mexico. These were the descendants of Arab horses taken there by Cortez. The descendants, although more than 400 years removed from the original stock, still carry many of the Arabian characteristics. Mares of this old Spanish stock of Arab lineage were crossed with Quarter Horse stallions, which improved the size and muscling, especially through the hindquarters. On the mares so produced (Quarter Horse, Spanish mares) thoroughbred stallions of good type were crossed and the results were excellent. The colts had more slope of pastern, a lighter, more buoyant walk, trot, and canter, and more speed, yet plenty of "cattle sense."

Good mounts have been produced in other ways, where care has been exercised to use only sires possessing the right characteristics.

Above all else, however, horses should be reared on the ranges where they are to work. This gives them experience, knowledge, and the ability to handle themselves on that type of terrain. In discussing this very point with cattlemen at the Fort Worth show, March 20-21, 1942, several stressed this and pointed out that horses raised on rocky land would keep their feet, somehow, no matter how numerous or slippery the rocks were, yet were apt to step in a hole and fall if transferred to ranges free from rock but extremely irregular in surface. Conversely, they said, horses reared on open prairies are liable to fall if required to work rapidly on very rocky ranges, especially over shale rock.

There is good reason, therefore, for the desire good cattlemen have to raise their own mounts—they get better, safer horses, able to do more work and have fewer riders injured by falls.

Aside from riding horses, every ranch has some work horses for winter feeding. Mechanized extemporized outfits may be used to put up hay; but, when it comes to working through snowdrifts in the winter to get hay, fodder, or cake to cattle on ranges, good work horses, weighing from 1,500 to 1,700 pounds, furnish the only sure-fire power to get feed where it is needed. However, as the number of work animals used is not large and can be bought near-by or within a 100-mile radius, few ranchmen raise their own work stock.

Making all horses gentle, from foals on, adds greatly to their value, as it increases their efficiency under saddle and in harness, and reduces, substantially, injuries to men using them. The importance of this is so great that the Horse and Mule Association of America issued a special booklet on this within the past few months, entitled "Training Riding Horses." It contains seventyseven photographic illustrations, with brief comments, and shows, step by step, just how some famous ranches, such as the King Ranch and 6666 Ranches in Texas make their riding horses gentle and well broken. The booklet is so costly that it cannot be furnished free, but 25 cents in silver or stamps, sent to the association at 407 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, will bring it to youand you will say, as many have, that it is worth \$1 to any ranchman who is trying to raise good mounts. Many, after reading it, have ordered additional copies enough for all their men who are training horses, which is the best possible evidence of its value. Albert Mitchell, head of the Bell Ranch in New Mexico, widely known to all cattlemen, ordered twenty-five copies for his men.

Cattle ranches are pre-eminently suited to the production of good riding horses and, as they improve their riding stock and make them well broken, they will have a steadily widening demand from people who ride for pleasure only. Such demand will take their mature horses at satisfactory prices, affording a side line source of revenue that will be virtually clear profit.

TO PROTECT GRAZING RIGHTS

Stockmen holding grazing permits on the national forests have been assured by Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard that their preferences will be protected for the duration of the war where numbers available for placing on forest range lands are reduced because of demands for heavier marketing of beef or where holders of permits enter armed services. In effect, the secretary's statement provides for granting of nonuse for the duration where: (a) the range is overstocked and the stockman voluntarily reduces his preference for protection purposes, or (b) the range is not overstocked but the operator is unable to obtain replacement numbers after selling or culling for the purpose of meeting the increased marketing goals set up in the Food-for-Freedom Program. In the case of permittees enlisting or being inducted into armed forces, nonuse will be granted for the duration and for two years after the end of the war to give war veterans ample time to acquire livestock. The clarification and restatement of Forest Service policy regarding grazing permits as affected by war requirements will be uniformly applied on all national forests within western states. Where in the application of the non-use policy there should be some unused range and surplus feed not needed for the stock under regular permits, temporary permits may be issued to other local stockmen.

DESERT HORSES THRIVE IN SNOW-CAPPED ROCKIES

By PEARL P. PUCKETT



On the high trails

THE PICTURESQUE LAZY VV ranch, near Boulder, Colorado, sprawls lazily over thousands of acres of mountainous grandeur—8,600 feet high into the clouds. At this lofty height, the hotblooded Arabian horses of the desert have found a new home.

Against this breath-taking backdrop of pine-studded peaks, now range Arabs of international fame and renown:

Zarife—proud, regal, and a true Arab. Zarife is no ordinary horse, but has long been internationally acclaimed the world's most beautiful horse—foaled in 1928, bred by Prince Mohamed Aly, of Cairo, Egypt, and imported to the United States in 1932. His dam, Mahroussa, was considered at one time the most beautiful Arabian mare in the world. Mahroussa's glamour and beauty has passed on to Zarife, and much more, as Zarife is the highly classical type—the horse immortal.

Kabar-foaled in 1930, sired by Kaaba, well known stallion owned by William Wrigley, Jr. Grandsire, Skowronek, perhaps the world's most famous Arab for whom Lady Wentworth of England refused \$250,000 from the Russian government. Great grandsire, Nurredin, one of the tallest Arabs of past records. Kabar has all the strength and power as well as the intelligence of the Kehilan family. Trainers at the Lazy VV claim they have to lock the corrals and hide the key in order to keep Kabar from opening all the gates. On precarious rugged trails, he can outclimb any cowpony in Colorado, or the entire cowcountry. He is a great lover of gaits and stunts. Let his beloved master call, and there is no fence too high to keep Kabar from his master. Kabar is perhaps the favorite of the whole shebang, and not without a peculiar sense of horse-humor. One of his favorite stunts is removing ladies' hats, and kissing the ladies. When hungry, he'll pick up an oat pail and head for the granary where he either helps himself, whenever he can manipulate the lock, or begs for a handout. He is friendly to the degree of being affectionate.

Then there's RasElFedawi, foaled in 1935, sired by Rahal, one of the well known stallions at the Kellogg Institute in California. RasElFedawi is another grandson of the famous Skowronek and Nurredin. He is also representative of the strong and solid characteristics of the Kehilan family.

Rifage, foaled in 1936, is another grandson of Lady Wentworth's Skowronek. Also of interest is the fact that both his sire, Mirage, and dam, Rifala, were international champions. Both won championships in England; were then imported into the United States by Roger Selby and won national championships. Rifage, like Zarife, is representative of the classic type Arab.

Against this backdrop of the lofty Continental Divide, prances a new champion: Barek, foaled in 1938, has attained new glory for the Arabian breed, for Barek stands 16 hands and ¼ inch (verified by a Boulder, Colorado veterinarian's affidavit), which is by far the

tallest Arabian horse of record. Lady Wentworth's Nurredin (former record breaking Arab for height) stood exactly 5 feet, 4 inches, or a little less than 16 hands. Since birth Barek has lived in the lofty peaks; has climbed rugged mountain trails that were formerly considered inaccessible. It is nothing for Barek to climb to the very top of the Continental Divide carrying a weight of 275 pounds, and come home almost as fresh and happy as when he started the long, hard trek.

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Large Arabs frequently lose some of the distinctive characteristics of their breed, but Barek, who is of the Maneghi-Hedruj family, which founded the Thoroughbred line in England, has lost nothing. The usual height of the Arab at full stature is 14 to 15.1 hands.

Fifty-seven imported Arabians make up this famous stud. It is the fourth Arabian Stud in America today. However, it has become internationally famous due to the fact that it is the very first time in the 4,000 years of pure scientific breeding that the hot-blooded Arabian horses of the desert have been transplanted to the cold snow-capped mountain regions.

L. W. VanVleet, owner and founder of the Lazy VV, points with pride to the vast concrete evidence in support of his theory that even the near-perfection of these rare and aristocratic animals could be improved by breeding in the rare, pure atmosphere of the snow-capped high mountain ranges. Not only do the VanVleet Arabs show better bone and wind and general superiority, but they have a remarkable record of not a single death or illness in the entire stud during its four years' existence. So far, Mr. VanVleet's Arabs are glaring examples of "toughness" and beauty. Then, too, the long, hard pack trips have done much to develop stronger tendons and shoulders, sure-footedness, and alertness.

L. W. VanVleet, civic leader and president of the Trinidad Bean and Elevator Company, of Denver, Colorado, originally established the ranch because of his interest in Arabian horses. Long before the present war, the black clouds of impending disaster prompted him to purchase and import fifty-seven Arabs from Egypt and England in order to preserve the precious Arabian strain. Thumbing back over the dusty annals of history, we find that Arabian horses have played an important part in wars and victories. It was an Arab stallion that bore Napoleon from Moscow, shared Napoleon's tent, and was coveted by rulers of many countries.

The bean business is a living for Van-Vleet. Consequently, his Arabs are not, strictly speaking, a commercial enterprise. Baby colts when weaned sell from \$500 to \$600 and have been shipped to all parts of the United States, Canada, and South America. Recently, letters arrived from such far away places as Valparaiso, Chile; Pelotas, Brazil; and

Hawaii asking for prices and shipping data. Mr. VanVleet believes, however, that the Arab blood is not so precious as to be beyond the reach of the average horse owner. He also declares that the fantastical high values appearing on Arabian family trees have been greatly overestimated. It used to cost \$7,500 for stud services by Arabs of Skowronek's rank. At the Lazy VV service from grandchildren of the famous stallion Skowronek can be had for \$25. This is the stud fee of RasElFedawi, sixyear-old stallion who stands at public service. However, no amount of money could buy RasElFedawi or any of the other imported Arabian stallions.

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The ranch buildings at the Lazy VV are tucked away in the peaks beyond Boulder Canon on the Peak-to-Peak Highway. The ranch was formerly a boys' lodge and was purchased by the VanVleets in 1937. The many cabins have been renovated into modern guest houses. For their own use, the Van Vleets have built an ultra-modern house of unique design, surrounded by a sundeck, which overlooks one of the two ranch lakes and which is equipped with a diving platform. Another important feature is the rustic living room with a huge fireplace, above which hangs an original painting by the old master Schreyer, who has never been excelled in his portraits of famous Arabian horses.

Wayne and Betty VanVleet, son and daughter of "L. W." and Colorado University students, do much of the training at the ranch. Even Mrs. VanVleet, who by the way is past-master in horsemanship in her own right, spends much

of her time teaching Arabs "racking" a gait unusual for the Arabs and extremely difficult for almost any horse.

"The Arabs have a real purpose: To improve breeds of all other light horses all over the world," said VanVleet. "The Arab is used to produce half-breed or quarter-breed stock horses of superior qualities. Infusion of Arab blood also yields wonderful saddle horses."

The curtain has been drawn across the ages, across the black tents of Arabia, across 4,000 years of hot-blooded desert breeding of the proud Arabian. The Arab has a new setting, a new mounting in the precious metals of gold and azure of the lofty peaks—truly a horse to match the mountains.

POOLING RANCH LABOR

PLAN FOR ORGANIZATION AND A operation of cattle ranch labor units to function during the war emergency has just been proposed by the Merchant Livestock Company, of Carlsbad, New Mexico, through L. B. Merchant, according to an announcement by F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National Live Stock Association. The purpose of this plan is to set up within the cattle ranching areas, especially in the western range states, a sufficient number of emergency labor units to handle the seasonal peak operations incident to the ranch business. This plan for its base goes back to the old system of co-opera-tive "round-ups" used many years ago, by which cattle in large areas of the open range were rounded up through the

open range were rounded up through the participation of many ranch units.

On top of the World

The procedure proposed is to set up local boards whose main function would be to "pool" existing local ranch labor during the time of peak labor requirements and thus make the most efficient use of all ranch help in that local area. The local and regional associations, where available, would provide in large degree the personnel for the local boards and would co-operate with them in arranging all the details necessary for successful operation. Full co-operation from the state associations and the American National Live Stock Association can be counted on, Mr. Mollin said. They can play a very useful part in clearing information between the local boards and in other ways.

Co-operation with United States Employment Service

The local boards would also co-operate fully with the United States Employment Service, which has already set up farm placement bureaus for the purpose of furnishing seasonal labor. Field offices are now being set up in the range territory which will function in distributing available labor to the best possible advantage. Such service will fit in closely with the plan of the emergency ranch labor units.

"Pooling" of Equipment

In addition to making the most efficient use of all available labor, the local boards would urge and organize the "pooling" of equipment, particularly trucks, which would be a big factor in the conservation of rubber.

Selective Service Boards

Another important function of the local ranch labor units would be co-operation with the local selective service boards relative to the deferment of key ranch help. When such a key man is called, the unit would appear as a body before the local draft board and would have at its command all pertinent information relative to him and to the needs of the in-dustry in that area. The recommendations of such a co-operative unit should carry considerable weight with the selective service board. If on its recommendation a key man is deferred, his record would be clear. It would show that he was engaged in an essential home front occupation, with the full authority and approval of the proper officials.

Mr. Mollin further stated that the Merchant plan would be of great assistance in the handling of ranch work, as, due to the draft, many ranches have lost a considerable number of employees. Due to the increasing seriousness of the ranch labor situation, the more efficient use of available local labor will be most helpful in assisting the cattle industry to fulfill its obligation in the food production program as advocated by Secretary of Agriculture Wickard. Livestock associations and all stockmen are ready and willing to do everything within their power to the end of successful prosecution of the war, and this labor plan is additional evidence of willingness and determination to that end.

CATTLE MARKETING GOALS CLARIFIED BY WICKARD

A LETTER TO SECRETARY OF AGriculture Claude R. Wickard written by F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, and the reply by Secretary Wickard are published below. These letters we believe bring out and answer most of the questions that have occurred to the cattlemen of the West in connection with the food-for-defense program:

Letter to Secretary Wickard

"I have before me your letter of December 27, 1941, in which you were good enough to write at some length relative to the original cattle marketing goals for 1942 which were put out by your department some time last fall. In that letter you state that these goals were to be considered 'as rough approximations only.' Furthermore, it is indicated that some revision might be expected after the January 1 census figures became

available.

"We have now the revised marketing goals for cattle and calves for each state and must confess that in some instances they are even more puzzling than the original ones. Since your letter was received, we have had our national convention at Salt Lake City and I have attended four state cattle conventions in the West. The question of the marketing program has been discussed quite freely at these various meetings, and it must be said that the main feeling on the part of stockmen generally regarding the program is one of confusion. They do not understand what is desired of them. They are generally in sympathy with the national goal of increasing marketing this year to an extent that will prevent a further increase in numbers, but when the effort is made to break it down into state goals, with such a great divergence between states and areas in the number suggested, frankly they are all at sea.

"For instance, in Kansas it is sug-gested that the marketing this year should be 103 per cent of the calf crop, plus in-shipments, while the number on hand January 1, 1942, in that state was only 92 per cent of the number on hand January 1, 1934. In Nebraska it is suggested that the marketings should be 104 per cent of the calf crop, plus in-shipments, when Nebraska had on January 1, 1942, only 81 per cent of the number on hand January 1, 1934. In South Dakota it is suggested that the market-ings should be 102 per cent of the calf crop, plus in-shipments, while the number on hand January 1, 1942, was 87 per cent of the number on January 1, 1934. And in Texas it is suggested that the marketings should be 113 per cent of the calf crop, plus in-shipments, with the number on hand January 1, 1942, 89 per cent of that on January 1, 1934. I am making these comparisons with 1934 because the total number on hand then was very similar to the total on hand now, and it was before cattle numbers were affected either by the drought or by the AAA program.

"The figures shown for the four states would necessitate actual further reductions in cattle numbers in those states; this despite the fact that there is a considerable dairy industry in each of the four states mentioned, so that the increase, applied solely to beef cattle, would mean a further sharp reduction in their numbers. For your information I enclose herewith a map which shows the states throughout the whole country comparing January 1, 1942, with January 1, 1934. It still seems to me that in working out the revised goals sufficient attention was not paid to the fact that in the two tiers of states immediately west of the Missouri River cattle numbers are still considerably below a normal relationship to the balance of the country.

"From our contact with the Department of Agriculture War Boards which have been set up and which are in charge of this program, it is very apparent that many of them do not understand the situation well enough to explain it to anybody else. Consequently, as I have already indicated, there is much confusion on the subject, and the job of getting cattlemen informed of how best they can co-operate in supplying the beef needed and in preventing further undue expansion is not being done.

"Would it not be practical to publicize the fact that if each individual cattle producer would simply so operate as to have on hand January 1 next approxi-mately the same number of cattle with which he started operations this year, your goal would be achieved? Of course, there will be exceptions to this rule where restocking from extreme drought is under way to a moderate degree, but generally speaking most cattlemen would immediately understand what was desired and I believe would co-operate; but when, in Montana, for instance, it is suggested that they should market 49 per cent more cattle than they did in 1940, despite the fact that they have only 80 per cent as many cattle as they had eight years ago, it just does not make sense to them.

"In another respect the statement accompanying the revised goals clings to the same error made in the original statement. I refer to the following statement: 'Cattle numbers in the range states have been increasing rapidly in recent years, and in most parts are at numbers equivalent to those at the end of World War I, or 1934. In many areas, the ranges are stocked beyond the normal limits of grazing capacity and win-ter feed supplies.' Your own records do not substantiate this statement either as to the number on hand or as to the condition of the ranges; instead they indicate that range conditions last year were the best in many, many years generally throughout the entire West. They indicate that conditions have been good this winter, with feed supplies ample despite the fact that in much of the northern territory the winter has been severe, temperatures below normal, and snowfall heavy. Livestock, however, has wintered

well, and the snow insures ample moisture for the start of another good season. It is not fair to the West to continue to suggest that they are overstocked when the map shows that they are understocked. There was a decrease in beef cattle numbers for the country as a whole between January 1, 1934, and January 1, 1942, of .08 per cent. For the seventeen states west of the Missouri River, despite substantial increases in six of those states in the Far West, there was a decrease between 1934 and 1942 in beef cattle of 9.6 per cent. The sharp increase in beef cattle numbers is in the Corn Belt east of the Missouri River.

"Frank Boice, president of our association, and myself had hoped to discuss this matter with Grover Hill at the Albuquerque meeting, but unfortunately Mr. Hill was unable to be present. We want to reiterate our desire to co-operate with you in every way possible. We believe that beef cattle will be marketed in such numbers as may be needed if our country's needs are properly presented. Of course, corn prices and market prices for beef cattle will have a direct influence on whatever is done.

"Under all the circumstances, we think it important that the record should be clear that the expansion in beef cattle numbers is largely east of the Missouri River and that when this emergency is over it should be recognized as only fair and proper that the West should be permitted to regain something like a normal relationship to the balance of the country in regard to beef cattle numbers. That relationship cannot be regained with continued undue emphasis on overgrazing and marketing from states that are presently understocked."

The Secretary's Reply

"Thank you for the information contained in your letter of March 27 as well as the comments which you made during your visit to my office on April 1.

"With reference to your statement that there is still some misunderstanding among cattlemen as to their part in the Food-for-Freedom Program, the following comments are offered:

"There is danger ahead for beef cattle producers if herds continue to increase. This, together with the fact that abundant supplies of food are needed for national defense, indicates that increased marketings of beef cattle and calves in 1942 will benefit not only cattlemen but the war program as well.

"The danger of another period with excessive numbers and several years of low prices cannot be headed off without increased marketings. Cattle numbers have been increasing for several years, and are now equal to the record peak of over 74,000,000 head on hand just prior to the disastrous drought of 1934.

"There are four things which beef cattle producers can do now to make their position secure:

"1. Market more cows and heifers to prevent further increases in cattle numbers. The goal for cattle slaughter for next year cannot be reached unless a larger proportion of she-stuff is marketed.

"2. Pay off indebtedness now while prices are favorable and avoid the necessity of paying big debts later when prices might be much less favorable.

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IS THERE **COMPETITION FOR** YOUR LIVESTOCK?



Perhaps the most highly competitive market in the world is that on which American livestock producers sell their cattle, sheep and hogs. The competition in buying of livestock is so keen that those who handle and process meat animals average to pay out for their raw material (livestock) about 75% of their total income from the sale of meat and by-products, and their annual earnings on the meat and by-products which they sell represent only an infinitesimal part of a penny per pound of product.

Nothing in the world, other than the keenest kind of competition in both the buying of livestock and the selling of products, would hold profits of the processors to such small figures (one-fifth of a cent a pound in 1941).

The competition is so keen that even old and well established firms are un-

> This is Armour and Company's Diamond Jubilee Year. We have been in business three-quarters of a century, and only firms which render useful service to the public and which are such a long period of time.

der constant pressure to obtain sufficient raw materials. The available supply of livestock is what determines the volume of the meat business, and if a competitor is allowed to buy an everincreasing portion of the market receipts that competitor will inevitably increase his volume of business at the expense of other competitors in the trade.

So it is constantly necessary for us to watch the operations of competitors and to match their efforts in the matter of obtaining supplies that we may not lose ground and fall back in our business which we have been years in building up.

It is this "watch and match the other fellow" situation which makes the packing business the most highly competitive in the world and holds the profits to such small figures.

well managed and which conform to business ethics and to the laws of the land are able to remain in business and expand with the country over

ARMOUR and COMPANY

May, 1942

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"3. Improve breeding herds by culling out and selling undesirable and old animals while demand is good.

"4. Keep livestock numbers in balance with normal feed supplies. Range conditions and feed supplies in the West were unusually good in 1941. Drought can cause a lot of loss if there is no feed reserve available, or if ranges are short.

"The Food-for-Freedom Program calls for a slaughter of about 28,000,000 head of cattle and calves in 1942 as compared an estimated slaughter of about 26,000,000 head in 1941. Stated another way, the goal for 1942 is the marketing of a number of cattle and calves equal to the estimated number of calves saved in 1942 in order to stabilize cattle numbers the available supply increase meat. It should be emphasized that this is a marketing and not a production goal. Most cattle producers should market their entire production in 1942 in order to stabilize prices, contribute to the war effort, and maintain a desirable balance between cattle numbers and the available range and feed.

"The extent to which any individual cattleman or specific area can or should contribute to the marketing goal for 1942 will of course vary, depending upon conditions in the particular area or on the particular range. A flat percentage increase in marketings is not expected, but I am certain that cattlemen realize the need for stabilizing numbers and increasing current meat supplies, and I feel sure they will make every effort to contribute their part to seeing that these marketing goals for 1942 are met. For most of them this will mean that the number of cattle and calves on hand January 1, 1943, should be the same as the number on hand January 1, 1942.

"These remarks are similar to a state-

"These remarks are similar to a statement which I sent to all U.S.D.A. War Board chairmen on December 8, 1941, and you may feel free to quote them at cattlemen association or other meetings where you believe they might contribute to a clearer understanding of the program for 1942."

LIVESTOCK PICTURE IN THE CORN BELT

By JAMES E. POOLE

 $T_{\rm and\ motor\ through\ the\ Corn\ Belt\ dur-}^{\rm HREE\ THOUSAND\ MILES\ BY\ RAIL}$ ing the past thirty days, invading its back precincts, afforded me opportunity to visualize current and prospective livestock production. Expanding acreage in corn and soybeans, suspension of the pasture program fostered for half a decade by the AAA, which is experiencing difficulty in keeping farmers lined up for "the program," and intensification of pork and lard production, in response to the profit incentive, are outstanding phases. Poultry and egg production amounts to a furor. Hatcheries began operations in January and have been constantly sold up. Feed manufacturers are doing a land-office business, advancing corn prices stimulating the use of mill feeds, or "supplements," to borrow vernacular. Many farmers are planting more corn than last year and the soybean acreage will be a record. The "gentle rain of checks" is of less importance, many farmers figuring that there is more money in production than federal bounties. Crop prospects are excellent, abundant humidity during the winter creating superb physical conditions everywhere. Old corn has all but disappeared; much of it is being converted into alcohol—an essential explosive ingredient. Dollar corn faces livestock feeders, whose problem is reducing cost of making gains.

Rumors of price ceilings coming out of Washington and exaggerated by ingenious newspaper correspondents do not get gracious reception. An effort to control hog cost through the packer is a flop. Its conceptors figured without taking volume into consideration, and at the inception of April numbers diminished, coincident with expanding purchases of meats and lard for lend-lease and military purposes. Packers complain that the buck was passed to them, and, as hog prices soared, Washington was under the necessity of adjusting its prices by the simple process of paying more money. Rumors of ceiling prices on other meats, including beef, are not taken seriously; it is regarded as impracticable. The 1942 spring pig crop has been estimated at 25 per cent larger than a year ago; but it is six months from the maturity stage, and mortality has taken heavy toll in many localities.

Washington is constantly clamoring for more meats and lard, especially the latter. Russia has been added to the allied nations demanding meat rations. Scarcity of lard suggests impending rationing, as there is a shortage of vegetable substitutes. Sows are selling at substantial premiums, which will attract them to the packing house the moment litters are weaned and they can be fattened. A June to August run of "grass widows" is inevitable, as they are realizing \$60 to \$75 per head.

The old crop of hogs is at the exhaustion stage; fall-farrowed shotes swell the procession to the shambles. Interior packers are running all over the country with trucks in an effort to keep killing gangs working full time; big packer direct buying has swelled, reducing supplies at the central markets. There is scant, if any, precedent for higher hog prices at Missouri River markets than Chicago, ordinarily the price-basing point. Former country differentials have been wiped out.

Old crop cattle are also at the disappearance stage. Heavy kosher bullocks weighing up to 1,700 pounds, which could not be moved over stockyard scales last summer, are now prize packages, selling in the highest price bracket. The only assignable reason is actual scarcity, with scant prospect of relief. Feeders, smarting under severe punishment for making long-feds last year, are taking the short route to the markets, which are filled with merely warmed-up steers with a sprinkling of near-good bullocks and a conspicuous delegation of the low-dress-

ing, two-way type eligible either to the feeder outlet or the beef-rail. Once they reach the stockyards the killer invariably grabs them, as he can sell that grade of beef the moment it has been chilled, while the feeder must wait 80 to 120 days to recover his money.

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Thousands of these merely warmed-up steers have gone to the shambles weekly during the past three months, which explains apparently heavy beef production, whereas it is actually a draft on spring and summer supply.

Beef-makers have abandoned hope of relief from current replacement cost. At Kansas City—one of the important stocker markets—the crop is cleaned up within a few hours after yarding. The entire Corn Belt is long on grass, woefully short of young cattle, and interested only in yearlings, paying premiums to evade weight, but always insistent on quality, realizing that profit is to be

found in the gain. Record March and the first quarter cattle slaughter this year is attributable to several factors, including beef price ceiling rumor; apprehension of material increases in personal property assessments, and a desire to recoup invested capital. March cattle slaughter was a record for the month and 21 per cent larger than March, 1941; January-to-March slaughter, inclusive, was also 21 per cent greater than a year ago. Any impression that these figures indicate increased production is fallacious; factually they represent liquidation—an actual draft on future supply. A short crop was installed last fall and has been in continuous depletion meanwhile. Killers ran almost overnight from a supply of excessively fat weighty bullocks to one lacking yields. Only at Chicago is a supply of choice steers available, and that supply is both meager and intermittent.

Many feeders have abandoned replacement quest. The entire Corn Belt is grain- and hog-minded. After four bumper crops of corn, a partial failure is possible, in which event fewer cattle will be laid in. The entire soybean pro-

LAFF-A-DAY MASKS FOR ALL OCCASIONS OCCASIO

"I want something to scare a ghost!"

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

duction will be processed for oil; the residue will cost feeders money. Outside the dairy districts silaging corn will be largely abandoned. The farming states are corn-minded, but an incipient beefbreeding industry has been arrested by advancing cost of breeding stocks, good, bad, and indifferent. A beef herd on the farm is now a valuable asset. Millions of acres of grass will be untenanted in a bovine sense.

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Now comes Washington with demands for more meat. Probably 50 per cent of the pork and lard output will be required on that account. The winter packing season is over without an accumulation. Heavy cattle slaughter has disappeared as the spectre of reduced poundage looms up. A 10 per cent increase in veal has been literally godbled up.

been literally gobbled up.

Scarcity of female cattle is responsible for lofty prices of every type, especially cutter cows. Freezer boxes, rural and adjacent to large urban centers, absorb cow beef constantly. Every suburb adjacent to the big cities has one or more refrigerator box plants into the cavernous maw of which countless tons of meat are constantly consigned, seriously crimping local meat markets, many having gone out of business.

There is nothing about the prospect suggestive of lower prices for any animal convertible into edible product; further appreciation is a strong probability. High prices usually curtail consumption, but in this emergency all the sign posts set up in the past are down.

NORTH DAKOTA'S RANCHING HISTORY

By MATT CROWLEY

THE HISTORY OF THE NORTH Dakota ranchmen and their association dates back to around 1883 or thereabouts when domestic cattle were first turned loose in the Badlands of the Little Missouri River and were expected to shift for themselves as the buffalos, the elk, and the deer were doing—and getting along very well. Some winters they would get by fairly well but at times there would be heavy losses of breeding stock, especially of heifers and aged cows.

Along in the nineties some of the more daring and enterprising ranchmen trailed in herds of aged steers from Texas and other southwestern states; and, strange as it may seem, those steers from the southern states stood the rigors of our northern winters very well, and after being what was called double-wintered here put on lots of fat and made very good beeves. At that time the range was free and the expense of running a large herd was very small per animal unit.

Many of the boys who came up the trail with those southern herds stayed on as cowhands and eventually acquired herds and ranches of their own and became our most prominent and respected citizens.

Our first stock growers' association

was organized about 1890, with Dan Manning, of Dickinson, president; I. H. Hager, of Sweetbriar, vice-president; and J. S. Green, of Mandan, secretary-treasurer. All the western half of the state was well represented in membership, as there were many who were called small ranchmen doing very well with an abundance of free range, well watered and well covered with the finest grass in the world. The association maintained brand inspectors at the central markets. Bob Wilcox, now of Killdeer, did efficient work at the Chicago market for many years. The association promulgated rules and regulations and helped to have laws enacted governing the handling and shipping of livestock, and things went along very well until about 1909 when the homesteaders started to come in and take up the free range and convert it to grain-This period of atfarming country. tempted transition from a stock country to a grain-farming country was filled with many tragedies, heartaches, and bankruptcies. Some of the ranchers who were well-to-do tried to protect their ranges and overbought in high-priced land, and eventually lost out. Others attempted to go with the tide and quit the livestock business and put their all into machinery and grain farming and lost out also. During this period the state was infested with land speculators, promotors, and high-powered salesmen, as everyone's credit was good by virtue of the precedent set by the hitherto con-



servative and industrious stockmen who always met their obligations.

The livestock association disintegrated and faded out of the picture, as most of the stockmen went broke or were forced out of business.

When the credit bubble burst and reaction set in, there was turmoil and strife, and the state was overrun with political organizers and agitators of every hue. We heard a great deal about personal rights having precedence over property rights; but this philosophy cannot be reconciled with the cow business, where the successful operator must continually expose his person to the elements in caring for the herd. This continual self-sacrifice of the real cowman develops characteristics peculiar to the clan, and they can be readily recognized wherever they are met with. They are usually devoid of guile or intrigue; they are ever ready to undergo personal sacrifices to help their fellow men and protect the weak and unfortunate; they haven't much time for those reformers and uplifters who are never known to practice any form of self denial or help others but are always ready to sit on a well-paid job and hand out lip service to those in distress.

So, after many years of turbulent times in which every brand of political nostrum was tried out in our state and many mediocre men were exalted to office through their ability to sell those dryland farmers on some political panacea or palliative that was supposed to alleviate their economic ills, finally our people began to realize that their salvation depended on their own constructive efforts and that those political panaceas only created more political jobs, more taxes, and more politicians.

Many became discouraged and left the state, and those who remained are practically all interested in some form of livestock—some in dairying, some in hog raising, some in sheep, and the majority in either the raising or feeding of beef animals. The raising of grain for market is more of a side issue.

With the increase in the livestock population and the advent of rubbertired transportation and through thoroughfares, the rustling of livestock became prevalent, so, along in January, 1929, some twenty stockmen met at Watford City and organized what they termed a protective association, with John Leakey as president and Andrew Johnston as secretary-treasurer. They offered \$1,000 reward for information that would lead to the conviction of any person found molesting livestock belonging to members of the association.

This was the beginning of the present North Dakota Stock Growers' Association, and Mr. Johnston has given much of his time and money to promoting and perfecting this organization. At the present time Frank Keogh, of Keene, is president; Don Short, of Medora, is vice-president; and L. B. Arndt, of Minot, is secretary-treasurer. All officers and directors of the association give their time

and services to the association with no compensation except the benefits which all livestock owners derive from the activities of the association; and the secretary-treasurer receives a small salary which helps to cover his expenses. The membership is expanding gradually, and in time will include all the enterprising cattlemen of the state.

In 1937 the association got out a brand book which includes every brand recorded in the state at the time it was issued. Everyone who becomes a member of the association receives a copy of the brand book.

LOUISIANA COWMEN CHOOSE NEW HEAD

MEMBERS OF THE LOUISIANA State Cattlemen's Association at their annual convention on March 26 at Lake Charles reluctantly accepted the announcement of Arthur L. Gayle, president of that organization for the past seven years, that he would not be a candidate for re-election and chose James L. McLemore, of Alexandria, to head the association. Vice-presidents elected were: J. D. Cooper, of Natchitoches; Carl Earl, Rayville; Oscar Evans, East Baton Rouge; and Mark Richard, of Cameron. Frank Godchaux, Jr., of Abbeville, was elected secretary-treasurer to succeed W. T. Cobb, of Baton Rouge, who declined renomination after twelve years of service.

Preceding the convention proper, delegates were guests of the Swift and Company yards where they witnessed a grading demonstration and school.

The first afternoon's session was devoted to committee reports, election of officers, and routine business. That evening banqueters were shown the American Meat Institute's film, "Gold in Meat," by Mr. A. P. Davies.

On the second day's program Dean Rodney Cline, of John McNeese Junior College, delivered the address of welcome, followed by Lawrence F. Mollin, of the American National Live Stock Association, Denver, who spoke to the group on some of the national problems confronting the industry.

Governor Sam H. Jones, scheduled to appear on the regular program, was unable to attend the convention sessions. However, he arrived by plane on the second day and a special luncheon meeting was called in order that the cattlemen and a representative group of civic leaders could hear his message. He stressed the tremendous job before the country during 1942, "the crucial, critical, and most vital year of this war," and urged seriousness of purpose and careful planning to hasten the end of hostilities. Elmer Shutts, of the Association of Commerce, described the various types of war production work now under way in the state, and Colonel Carleton F. Bond, of the Lake Charles army flying school, told about activities of that training

The roll call, conducted by Secretary-Treasurer W. T. Cobb, revealed that the attendance at the convention included representatives of twenty-one cattle associations of the state.

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The association in a letter to President Roosevelt pledged full co-operation in supplying beef and willingness to accept all sacrifices "to make certain complete victory over the evil forces in order to perpetuate individual liberty and freedom in our nation."

Resolutions adopted-

Recommended termination of nonessential expenditures and demands upon the federal treasury by special interests.

Urged amendment of price-fixing law to place labor and agriculture on an equitable basis.

Insisted that there be "no modification whatsoever" in existing embargoes against importations from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists, with specific request that Tierra del Fuego be not released from the embargo until disease-free conditions exist on the mainland.

Asked assistance of the Bureau of Animal Industry in control of anaplasmosis.

Commended calfhood vaccination and uncontrolled sale of biologics.

Urged increase in the work week to forty-eight hours and elimination of double pay for Sundays and holidays and condemned demands for closed shop contracts, strikes, and avoidable shutdowns.

Approved policies of the American National Live Stock Association and pledged continued support to its efforts.

Expressed gratitude to President Arthur L. Gayle for outstanding service to the cattle industry of Louisiana. The resolution listed the outstanding steps in the progress of Louisiana's cattle industry during the period Mr. Gayle held office and in which "he took a most important part":

"Completion of the tick eradication program.

"Erection of the Swift & Company plant here.

"Adoption of a constitutional amendment removing livestock from the tax assessment rolls of Louisiana.

"Inauguration of a state-wide tuberculin test for cattle.

"Inauguration of a \$75,000 Bang's disease control program.

"Inauguration of a calfhood vaccination program for the control of Bang's disease.

"Importation of 18,939 purebred beef and dairy cattle, of which 14,067 were purebred beef bulls.

"Establishment of 4-H Club calf shows over the state, one of which is at Lake Charles."

The convention was followed by a 4H Club judging contest and calf sale on March 27, a horse and cow-pony parade on March 28, and the Southwest Louisiana Horse Show on March 29.

The convention voted to go to Baton Rouge for its 1943 convention.

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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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FITTING THEIR CONVENTION TO the tempo of the times, officers of the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Association packed into a one-day program a complete round of addresses and reports on the various phases touching Utah's cattle industry. Perhaps the largest attendance the association has ever had at a convention was recorded at the twenty-fourth annual meeting on April 4, in Salt Lake City.

Declarations of policy in the light of war conditions were made covering seven important fields in the cattle business: The public domain-by Director of Grazing R. H. Rutledge and J. M. Conover, of Ferrin, Utah; the forest reserves—by C. N. Woods, regional district forester, and Guy Hafen, St. George; taxation of livestock-by J. A. Scorup, Moab, and Heber Bennion, member of the state tax commission; state department of agriculture-by Don Kinney, commissioner of agriculture, and Horace Allred, Roosevelt; selective service system-by Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Rice, state director; the big game problem-by Mark Anderson, state game supervisor, and Willard T. Jones, Newcastle; and priorities and rationing-by Ralph Bristol, regional director, A. Sandack, advisor, state rationing board, and Joseph H. Francis, Morgan.

An address on meat merchandising was given by Rilea Doe, of Safeway Stores, Inc., San Francisco, California. President L. C. Montgomery talked to the group on national livestock problems.

Resolutions adopted by the Utah Cattlemen were as follows:

Pledging "our physical and mental ability" toward the "stockmen's first obligation and foremost desire—to win this war."

Asking the president of the association to appoint a committee to work with the state fish and game commission and the committee on big game control "to the end that the number of big game be reduced to where it should be and to prevent the forming of new herds of either elk, moose, deer, or buffalo."

Expressing disappointment at excessive increase on valuation of cattle when compared with other properties of the state.

Raising the annual dues of the association from 1 cent to 2 cents per head.

Urging departments, bureaus, and agencies of the federal government to consider "restoring to the grazing of livestock as much of the public domain suitable therefor as is compatible with national welfare."

Asking Forest Service to modify its policy to permit grazing of cattle on forest without necessity of the procedure of annual tagging, "a practice which causes undue loss."

Suggesting co-operation of the association and the Forest Service in planting supplementary feeds on national forests for spring feed.

Opposing modification of the embargo against imports of livestock or dressed meat from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists.

Endorsing the Johnson bill, S. 1030, to give permanency to the tenure of permits and provide legal status of advisory boards with recommendatory authority and asking the secretary of agriculture and the Forest Service to work actively for its enactment into law.

All the officers were re-elected. They are: L. C. Montgomery, Heber, president; J. A. Scorup, Moab, vice-president; and R. V. Broadhurst, Salt Lake City, secretary.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

NORTHERN NEW MEXICO

Resolutions adopted at the annual convention, in Cimarron, New Mexico, February 25, of the Northern New Mexico Live Stock Association pledged "our economy, care, and conservation of essential defense materials;" favored termination of payments to livestock producers under the AAA program; asked that all unnecessary expenditures of federal funds be stopped immediately; asked abolishment of WPA, SCS, NYA, and CCC; opposed modification of the ban on livestock or dressed meats from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists; asked special consideration in deferment of men working on ranches; opposed sales tax on livestock "that might be an increase over any existing tax;" urged greater consideration to needs of ranchers with respect to trucks, tires, and machinery necessary for the industry; asked that the Cattle Sanitary Board give local brand inspectors assistance in running down thefts. W. R. Fergusson was elected president, succeeding E. G. Hayward, Cimarron; John King, vice-president; Olen Caviness, secretary; and Alvin Stockton, treasurer.

ARIZONA JUNIORS ORGANIZE

At a meeting in Prescott, Arizona, during the convention of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association last February it was proposed by the Yavapai Junior Cattle Growers' Association and the Northern Arizona Junior Cattle Growers' Association that a temporary state junior association be formed (1) to form friendships among juniors throughout Arizona and to exchange experiences; (2) to gain practice in organization work and conduct meetings along democratic lines; (3) to encourage organization of county or district junior associations; (4) to promote interest of juniors in the cattle industry in county, state, and nation; and (5) to foster educational features at state and county meetings. The following officers were elected to serve for one year: Marion Perkins, Chino Valley, treasurer; Billy Bourdon, Holbrook, secretary; Roger Stiles, Winslow, vice-president; and Arthur Evans, Phoenix, president. To be eligible for membership juniors must have cattle of their own or their parents must be in the beef cattle business in Arizona. They must be between twelve and twenty-one years of age. Dues are \$1.50 per year.

JUDITH BASIN MEETING

Judith Basin County, Montana, beef and wool producers were guests on March 14 of N. B. Matthews, vice-president of the Basin State Bank, of Stanford, at a luncheon meeting and were addressed by Mr. Matthews on the subject of organization. He stressed the importance of building association membership. Other speakers were Paul Orcutt, of the extension service; C. A. Jarrett, of the Great Northern Railway agricultural department; a representative of the AAA; R. P. Schmitt, president of the Judith Basin County Stock Growers' Association; Paul Etchepare, secretary of the Montana Wool Growers' Association, and E. A. Phillips, secretary of the Montana Stock Growers' Association.

DEER LODGE, POWELL, AND GRANITE CO. STOCKMEN MEET

One hundred stockmen and women from Deer Lodge, Powell, and Granite counties, Montana, met in Deer Lodge on March 21 to hear discussions on matters concerning the livestock industry. The program included talks by Paul Etchepare, secretary, Montana Wool Growers' Association; E. A. Phillips, secretary, Montana Stock Growers' Association; B. B. Brewster, of the state AAA committee; Sylvan Pauly; Evan Hall and L. S. McDonald, agricultural development agents for the C., M. & St. P. and N. P. railroads; and Dr. W. J. Butler, state veterinary surgeon. A discussion of the draft and its requirements was led by George Mungas, member of the Granite County draft board. Dr. Harold F. Hollands, agricultural economist of Montana State College, also spoke to the group.

OPPOSE FARM UNION PLAN

The American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Grange, and the Council of Farmer Co-operatives are uncommonly concerned over the drive of John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers to organize dairymen. Leaders of the groups are planning a program of opposition to the union's move. Kathryn Lewis, daughter of Mr. Lewis, and secretarytreasurer of UMW, district 50, which is trying to organize the dairy farmers, said that charges that the UMW drive was a threat to farmers were "ridiculous" and that the best answer was that more than 30,000 dairymen have joined since start of the organization last fall. Other reports indicate that dairymen are not taking any too well to the idea.

PLUMAS-TAHOE MEETING

Cattlemen of the Plumas and Tahoe sections in California in a meeting on February 28 elected Robert Gee president of their organization, succeeding Chauncey Bean, and renamed Clifford McMillan as secretary-treasurer. Speakers at the meeting included Mr. McMillan, Clyde Harris, of the Cattle Protection Service; President Bamert, of the California Cattlemen's Association; Lewis Sherrill, secretary of the Butte Conservation Association, Orville; Forest Supervisor De Camp; Barney Dobbas, assistant farm advisor of Yuba County; and Forest Ranger L. P. Slattery, of Brush

NEW OFFICERS IN BENT-PROWERS ASSOCIATION

Wilkie Ham was chosen president of Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers' Association at Las Animas, Colorado, recently to succeed Raymond M. McMillan, who has been president for the past ten years. Henry Bledsoe was chosen vice-president; Neil Davidson replaced Arthur S. Dean, who had been secretary for twenty years; C. A. Woods was named assistant secretary; W. J. A. Scott, treasurer; and Henry Manifor, assistant treasurer.

SANTA CLARA MEETING

The Santa Clara County Cattlemen's Association at its quarterly meeting held recently at Gilroy, California, approved resolutions adopted by the California Cattlemen's Association and the American National Live Stock Association at their recent conventions. Topics dis-cussed were the matter of closing the

deer season in Santa Clara County, reciprocal trade agreements, and fire protection. President Jere Sheldon, of Madrone, presided.

ARIZONAN ROPES EAGLE

Ralph Cowan, of Cochise County, Arizona, a member of the American National Live Stock Association, is among that select group which can lay claim to having lassoed an eagle in flight. Mr. Cowan was riding herd recently when he beheld an eagle about to pounce upon one of his calves. He ringed the giant bird with his lariat. Mrs. Cowan has caged the eagle, which is still alive, as proof of Cowan's feat.

PARK COUNTY OFFICERS

Members of the Park County Livestock Association at their annual meeting in Livingston, Montana, on March 21, reelected: Senator W. A. D'Ewart, Wilsall, president; George M. Parker, Wilsall, vice-president; Howard Bodine, Clyde Park, secretary; and P. H. Gilbert, Clyde Park, treasurer. Roy N. Armstrong, Corwin; Mrs. C. B. Scott, Gardiner; Ralph W. Pepper, Wilsall; and W. T. Morrison, Wilsall, were made members of the board of directors.

MEAGHER COUNTY BOARD MEETS

A. C. Grande, Jr., of Lennep, was elected chairman of the board of directors of the Meagher County (Montana) Livestock Association at a board meeting held at White Sulphur Springs on March 10. Those present at the meeting were: A. C. Grande, Jr., T. F. Adams, Carl Rostad, Walter Donahoe, and Carl O. Hansen.

LIVESTOCK POISONING

Stories that "livestock poisoning has been licked" by placing boxes of baking soda, slacked lime, salt, and iodine in larkspur areas are not believed to be fundamentally sound by scientists at the University of Wyoming. Suggestions that these materials and this procedure would protect animals have recently been given wide publicity.

Potent alkaloid poisoning, which animals get from larkspur, the death camas, and a number of other plants is so lethal, Professor Beath, research chemist at the university, says, as to cause the death in a few hours. Even if an animal ate the soda, lime, salt, and iodine mixture, what would happen would be similar, points out Professor Beath, to a human being's swallowing these same elements and then following by a spoonful of strychnine. The poison would probably be fatal. Prevention, as with all poisons, is the thing to strive for.

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Mr. Beath outlines what happens leading to poisoning of an animal. After a winter's unbalanced feeding, an animal may crave phosphorus, lime, or protein, the latter of which represents meat for a human being. An animal normally will not eat larkspur, but it will do so if it has developed a craving, which it is likely to have after a long period of unbalanced feeding, especially in the late winter and spring, for any one of these elements, all of which are present in larkspur in addition to poison. If to supply a deficiency, an animal eats larkspur in lethal amounts, poisoning will be the result. To protect an animal, says Professor Beath, feed it well on wholesome, well-balanced forage or do not permit it in areas where poisoning is pos-

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6. A record of items receivable

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Financial summaries at the end of the year.

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ferent kinds of work. 6. A memorandum of weather conditions, the dates of the more important farm and ranch operations, etc.

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CALENDAR

1-2—Cattle and Horse Raisers' Ass'n of Oregon Convention, John Day.

2—University of Nebraska Feeders' Day, North Platte.

8-9-Idaho Cattlemen's Ass'n Convention. Boise.

15-16-Washington Cattlemen's Ass'n Convention, Okanogan.

27-29-Montana Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Missoula.

2-4—Wyoming Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Gillette.

4-6-Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n Convention, Steamboat Springs.

8-10-South Dakota Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Belle Fourche.

11-13-Nebraska Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Lexington.

12-13-North Dakota Stockmen's Ass'n Convention, Fargo.

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Published monthly in the interest of the livestock industry by the American National Live Stock Association Publishing Company.

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Subscription: One Year, \$1; Three Years, \$2.75; Six Years, \$5. Advertising Rates on Request. F. E. MOLLINManaging Editor DAVID O. APPLETON...... LAWRENCE F. MOLLIN.... ____Editor ...Business Manager

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Vol. XXIII May 1942 No. 12

THE OPEN DOOR

EVEN BEFORE WE HAVE GOT UP full steam for our participation in the war, while the nation is being urged to put every non-essential activity aside for the duration, we find that there is increasing activity to commit this nation, while at war, to a policy of internationalism when peace comes, far beyond any concept of it ever willingly accepted by the electorate of the country.

The story starts with the passage of the reciprocal trade act in 1934. We all remember that it was supposed to be the instrument that would keep the world at peace. Failing in that, or in keeping us out of the conflict, it is now merely a device for the reduction of all our tariffs, setting the stage for the program of internationalism now being developed.

In furtherance of this new program semi-commitments for further tariff reductions are being made by our State Department-those suggested by Acting Secretary of State Welles in the Rio conference and more recently in the compact made with the United Kingdom.

It is rather ironical that this program is being developed at the very time that the war itself has thrust us back into a position where we are nearly dependent upon our own supplies and resources than for many a long year. Consequently in sugar and in many strategic war materials the theory of internationalism fails to produce results when very badly needed.

It should be remembered that at the close of World War No. 1 the American people, despite the urging of President Wilson, rejected the League of Nations, Are we more international-minded today

or does the American way of life still look good to our people? Are we to open the tariff door so that much more can come in and little go out? The larger the dose of internationalism we take now, so mixed in with war affairs as to be almost inseparable, the bigger the international headache that threatens

At least the people should have a chance to pass on the issue calmly and fairly and with full understanding of what it is all about. If we are prepared to lower our standard of living in order to promote the common good, if we are prepared to surrender our markets in the interest of the prosperity of foreign producers, it should be done openly and with full recognition of the consequences. The door is half open now, due to tariff reductions brought about by the reciprocal trade program. Are we to open it further as proposed, or are we to demand that the American standard of living and the American way of life be preserved?

THE JOHNSON FOREST GRAZING BILL

EVER SINCE THE PASSAGE OF the Taylor Grazing Act, which under Section 3 quite definitely specifies the procedure to be followed in the granting of preferences for grazing permits, there has been a demand for legislation that would give somewhat similar protection to those stockmen who are operating on the national forests. The amendment to the Taylor act, sponsored by the American National Live Stock Association, granting an official status to the local advisory boards and defining their duties, also served to kindle interest for a similar set-up on the forests. True, the regulations of the Forest Service have for many years called for such boards, but they have largely been ignored by the forest supervisors and in many areas had completely ceased to function.

To meet these demands, the American National Live Stock Association undertook to prepare a bill early in 1940, and as S. 3532 it was introduced by Senator Johnson, of Colorado. It had two major objectives, the legal creation of local advisory boards with brief definition of their advisory duties, and the prevention of further distribution of forest permits. In other words, it was designed to protect the present user so long as deemed in the public interest to continue the areas in grazing use. Both of these major purposes are clearly in line with current policy of the Forest Service. In 1941 the bill was rewritten and again, as S. 1030, introduced by Senator Johnson.

Despite the fact that in neither particular is the bill opposed to current policy of the Forest Service, that organization has seen fit to disapprove it. The issue is very clearly drawn. The Forest Service insists not only on administering the uses of the lands entrusted to its

care, but on determining the basic policy for the handling of the lands. In presenting the matter to Secretary of Agriculture Wickard in the presence of the legislative committee of the American National Live Stock Association, Acting Chief Clapp of the Forest Service stated that fifteen years from now different social conditions might point to a need for further distribution of permits contrary to the present policy of non-distribution. That is the crux of the whole matter. Shall the Forest Service be the sole arbiter of such policies, or shall Congress direct the policy as it has done with the public domain in the Taylor act? As to the advisory boards, no sound argument has been or can be advanced against giving them a legal status instead of their existence remaining dependent upon the whim of the chief of the Forest Service.

The Johnson bills have been endorsed by practically all the leading livestock organizations of the West (both cattle and sheep). True, there has been a recent unexplained reversal in position of the National Wool Growers' Association, which originally endorsed S. 3532 and recently adopted a resolution opposing S. 1030. In the same list of resolutions appears one urging formation of local advisory boards, which leads to the con-clusion that that organization is particularly opposed to the major purpose of the Johnson bill—that of stopping any further distribution of permits. Knowing this cannot be true, their action seems inexplicable.

It is regrettable that the Forest Service, deeply steeped in bureaucracy, is unwilling to co-operate with the livestock industry in a matter of this kind. It should be willing to leave to Congress the determination of basic policies and then devote its energies to administering those policies with fairness and justice to all. After long delay, the McCarran subcommittee of the Senate Public Lands Committee has just taken charge of this bill, and we can expect prompt consideration and fair dealing from it.

FOOD FOR DEFENSE

IN A LETTER PUBLISHED ON PAGE 10 of this issue Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard sets forth four things that cattlemen can do in the foodfor-defense program. They are: Market more cows and heifers; keep livestock numbers in balance with normal feed supplies; improve breeding herds through culling undesirable animals; and pay off debts.

War demands and good management form the basis for these suggestions. As to the first two suggestions, extra marketing of cows and heifers is essential to meet war and civilian demand, and too many cattle on the ranges now might spell disaster and hamper future production in the event of drought. In the third and fourth cases, stockmen realize that the present is a good time to market old animals, and that debts can now be paid off under favorable prices that may not continue.

Cattlemen have been eager to co-operate in the food-for-defense program, and we believe they have been following the secretary's plan. However, one point has puzzled them. In some states high marketing goals have been fixed that seemed wholly out of line with stocking capacity, and, in other cases, states with increased cattle numbers have been given low marketing quotas. This was called to the secretary's attention in a letter by F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, and that problem is now cleared up. Secretary Wickard's answer, contained in the letter already referred to, reads:

"The extent to which any individual cattleman or specific area can or should contribute to the marketing goal for 1942 will of course vary, depending upon conditions in the particular area or on the particular range. A flat percentage increase in marketings is not expected."

Thus the secretary leaves it up to the individual stockman to do his part. And the secretary can be assured that he will do it well—do it with greater incentive than ever before and with any sacrifice required.

MEAT BOARD CONTESTS IN 1942

More than 13,000 students from colleges, universities, and high schools all over the country have entered two national competitive meat events launched by the National Live Stock and Meat Board. They are the third national meat essay contest for home economics students of colleges and universities and the seventh national meat poster contest for high school students. These contests are planned to stimulate the interest of students in the value of meat in building a stronger America and to stress the fact that right foods are just as important in winning the war as guns, tanks, planes, and ammunition.

MEAT EXHIBIT FOR DENTISTS

At a recent national dental convention in Chicago, attended by more than 10,000 dentists, an exhibit installed by the National Live Stock and Meat Board featuring the value of meat in the diet was one of the most popular of the educational displays. Dentists from every state in the Union and Canada registered at the exhibit booth for nutrition charts, booklets, and other meat literature. Many of these charts are now being displayed in dental offices.

GOOD SALE

C. F. Reinmiller, secretary of the Platte Valley Hereford Association, reported fine attendance at that organization's sale in North Platte, Nebraska, on April 1. Average price on the sixty-four bulls was \$268; fifty cows brought an average of \$127.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON NOTES

Inflation. A program designed to stop inflation by the most complete control of American economic life ever proposed is apparently in the making. The plan might include such far-reaching steps as wage controls, limitations of profit, additional credit curbs, a general exercise of price-fixing powers, enforced savings, and a tax bill that would top the Treasury Department's \$7,000,000,000 tax program.

Public Land Hearings. Denver and Glenwood Springs, Colorado, and possibly Albuquerque, New Mexico, are listed as places for hearings on matters pertaining to the use of public lands, probably within the next thirty days. Later the subcommittee holding these hearings, which are authorized under a Senate resolution sponsored by Senator McCarran, of Nevada, will hear witnesses in southern and northern California. . . . Senator McCarran recently introduced a bill which would require the secretary of the interior to obtain the consent of district advisory boards before making change in fees charged for grazing.

Trade Agreements. The Department of State gave notice on April 4 of intention to negotiate a trade agreement with Mexico. The list of products which will come under consideration in the negotiations includes cattle and calves, on which the various present rates of duty range from 1½ to 3 cents, sheep and lambs, horses and mules, and mixed feeds. . . .

On the same day the Department of State announced intention to negotiate a pact with Bolivia. Hides, with a present ad valorem rate of 5 per cent, are included in the items to be considered.

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Construction. Under a recent War Production Board order halting construction not directly connected with defense, no new agricultural construction may be started without permission if the cost is \$1,000 or more for the building or project involved and no residential construction, except for maintenance and repair work, may be started without permission if its estimated cost is \$500 or more. In computing costs, the amount spent within twelve months of the date of beginning construction, and after April 7, 1942, is included.

Lend-Lease. Previous estimates of meat needed for lend-lease shipments apparently have been found too low and purchases on that score are being increased. Packers were recently asked by the Department of Agriculture to set aside 40 per cent of their pork cuts and canned pork and 66 per cent of lard and hog casings for lend-lease purchase.

Pork Ceiling. The Office of Price Administration recently revised its ceiling on wholesale pork cuts "to remove great inequalities among sellers caused by the fact that some merchandisers took advantage of advance, and in several instances confidential information, by establishing artificially high ceilings for themselves." Basis for the new, and to some extent lower, ceiling is given as

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February 16 to 20, instead of the original period of March 3 to 7.

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Tires. Those eligible for new tires and tubes include the farmer who uses his truck exclusively to transport farm products and food to market, to carry home supplies needed to farm, such as fuel for farm machinery, fertilizers, and feeds. Likewise, this includes necessary transportation of supplies and raw materials on the farm or ranch, such as water and feed to livestock. No new tires will be sold to farmers for trucks that are used to carry farm products to housewives or other ultimate consumers. Farmers are eligible to get tires for their tractors and other farm implements. They are not, however, eligible to get tires to change over from steel wheels to rubber tires. Eligibles for recap jobs or recapped tires include farmers who use their passenger cars to haul produce to and from market because they have no other practical means of transportation; also, farm workers and technicians who use their passenger cars to travel within and to and from farms and ranches essential to the war effort, and farmers who use their trucks for important purposes other than those that make them eligible for new tires.

Trucks. Pooling equipment and co-operative hauling of products and supplies by farmers of a community form the keystone of a plan being worked out by the Office of Defense Transportation, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and other governmental agencies, with a view to reducing farm truck mileage from 35 to 50 per cent without undue hardship to anyone. Under the voluntary plan, farmers will be asked to: (1) keep their trucks in the best possible mechanical condition; (2) eliminate unnecessary use of vehicles; (3) co-operate in transportation pools with their neighbors; and (4) revise marketing and buying programs as necessary. Included in the plan are farmers, market gardeners, fruit growers, milk producers, livestock haulers, and others engaged in transportation of farm products who operate a total of 1,500,000 motor trucks.

Circular. A circular on internal parasites of cattle and way of prevention and control is an addition to publications of the Department of Agriculture. The author, Dr. Gerard Dikmans, a parasitologist of the Bureau of Animal Industry, points out that young animals, as a rule, suffer most from parasitic infestations. Satisfactory control, he adds, depends on a knowledge of the life history of the parasites involved so that preventive measures may be directed at the most vulnerable point and thus stop their propagation. Illustrations show the appearance of the various worms, flukes, and protozoans and include typical life-history charts. Discussion of each parasite shows its geographical distribution and recommended means of combating it. The circular may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Washington,

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ALFRED STARTED IT



'Snooty! You awake?'

Snooty's glass eyes blinked, then focused on Pachy, the elephant's foot. Daylight was just breaking over Crestone Needles onto Baca Grant headquarters.

"Yea, what you want? Snooty yawned.

"I didn't sleep . . . stomach upset . . . horrible dreams," grumbled Pachy. "Wish Alfred hadn't told the Greeley T-Bone Club about the Africans that eat only blood and milk."

"Blood will tell, you know," grinned Snooty, enjoying Pachy's gastronomical discomfort, "Ralph and Phil keep saying so. They got proof at the purebred barns."

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"Blood," grimaced Pachy,
"and breakfast so near. Oh,
my stomach. Why do you
use that word? Why can't
we tell about Baca Grant
registered Herefords just
by boosting Reality, Home
Builder, Royal and the other
bulls? Everybody'll know
they got ancestors in the they got ancestors in the Hereford Who's Who and calves to brag about. Some for sale, too."



Baca Grant, Crestone, Colo.

Alfred Collins, Walter Oldland. Ralph Murdock, Phil Robinson



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Arrow H Ranch, Santa Ynez, Calif., is a wel-come new Painter cus-

... cannot mold Herefords into successful breeding animals any more than a race horse into a winner. Good breeding must be there first. The hands molding this cannot work beyond capabilities of the breeding. PAINTER TYPE BULLS ARE BACKED BY 40 YEARS OF PAINTER BREEDING.

THE AAA FOR 1943

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH the agricultural adjustment program in 1943?

John D. Black, Professor of Economics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in a recent open letter asks this question. He writes:

"This is a highly important question upon which farm people everywhere should be doing some hard thinkingand doing it soon, for the government fellows are already at work on it. Congress is even now beginning to pass legislation that affects next year's adjustment program. The administrators in federal, regional, and state offices are already pushing their pencils around making plans for next year's crop.

"The goals that have been set for this year's agricultural output average 6 per cent more than the 1941 output. It won't be easy to reach these. But 1943 is going to see the need for amounts so much larger than this 6 per cent that one's heart almost stands still to think of it. Can our agriculture do it? How?

"We must not let government folks do all the figuring on this. There are more good ideas on a question of this kind outside the government than in it.

"In fact, it is not even safe to let government folks do all the figuring about it. They're just human beings and cannot keep from thinking too much in terms of just more of what they are now doing. It's their job.

"For some twenty years now, nearly all of the time as an outsider, I have been trying to understand agriculture's problems and help work out ways of meeting them. Some of you know that I had a bit to do with developing the present adjustment program. I am much concerned whether it should be continued next year, and, while the war lasts, whether just as it is now or whether it should be changed. And if so, how?

"What I would like is that some of you who read this letter would write me rather soon your ideas as to how the present AAA and production goal program is working out in your area, and whether continuing it as it is will give us the increased output we need in 1943 or whether some changes should be made and what these should be. Should any of the restrictions in the present program be removed? In fact, should there be any restrictions at all? If so, which ones should be retained?

"I know about the shortages of labor in some sections already. It will be worse in 1943. What ideas have you about meeting this problem?

"Is lack of credit going to hold anybody back?

"I don't promise to answer fully and individually all the replies which I receive to this request. But I shall study them all carefully and make very good use of what is in them. They will be treated confidentially, none of them published, at least without your permission."

ACCESSORIAL CHARGE

PETITION FOR A 3 PER CENT INcrease instead of the 6 per cent granted to railroads in "accessorial and special services on animals and products" has been made before the Interstate Commerce Commission by Charles E. Blaine and Calvin L. Blaine, traffic counsel for the American National Live Stock Association.

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Principal accessorial and special services are listed as: bedding cars; concentration or consolidation; feeding and watering in transit; feeding or grazing for fattening in transit; out-of-line, indirect, or back-haul; stopping to complete loading; stopping to comply with quarantine regulations; and switching.

The petition contends that the paragraph of the commission's report stating that "we approve an increase in the present rates and charges of 3 per cent" means that an increase of the 3 per cent applies both to live-haul rates and charges for accessorial or special service.

"This interpretation is supported not only by the language there employed by the commission but by the fact that there is absolutely no evidence of record justifying a different increase in the charges for accessorial or special services on animals and products than in the line-haul rates thereon."

The petition holds that "It is apparent that there is a conflict between the statement of the commission on sheet 48, above quoted, wherein it approved increase of 3 per cent in the rates and charges on animals and products, and Appendix 2, wherein increase of 6 per cent is shown as being applicable to the charges for accessorial or special serv-

"Petitioners believe that the commission intended to authorize an increase of 3 per cent in not only the line-haul rates but in the charges for accessorial or special services as well on animals and products: moreover, that the conflict in the report is due to the fact that the commission was confronted by a voluminous record, without briefs, and was exerting every effort to render its decision at the earliest possible date; furthermore, that because of these facts, the commission recognized that corrections in its report and order might be necessary."

The petition prays that the commissionsion modify its order "to authorize increase of 3 per cent instead of 6 per cent in the charges for accessorial and special services on animals and products and require respondents promptly to amend their tariffs accordingly."

The petition was filed on behalf of the American National Live Stock Associa-tion, National Wool Growers' Association, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association, Highland Hereford Breeders' Association, Live Stock Traffic Association (Texas), and the National Live Stock Marketing Asso-

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

20

MARKETS

BEEF ANIMALS KEEP WORKING UPWARD

By H. W. FRENCH

CHOICE AND PRIME STEERS COntinued to get the call despite a sharply higher market following the big rise of the preceding month. Many were surprised at the strength that developed, but apparently the scarcity of top grades

made it necessary for buyers to support the market if they had any desire to fill their orders for specialty kinds. While the common and medium grade salso worked upward, the advance was not very sharp, and at times it was an "in and

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For the week ending April 4 only 9.1 per cent of slaughter steers at Chicago graded choice and prime, as against 15.3 per cent a year earlier. The average cost of such grades this year was \$15.19. A year ago it was \$12.71. Both good and common steers fell short of a year ago, but medium offerings were stepped up materially, forming 44.5 per cent of the run this year as against 29.4 per cent a year earlier. Good steers averaged \$13.47 and \$11.09, respectively, medium, \$11.49 and \$9.59, respectively, and common, \$10.02 and \$8.53, respectively.

The cattle market as a whole stood the highest since 1937, although most of the recent upturn was registered on steers. About the only exception in the picture at middle of the month was light canner cows, for which buyers seem to have little use. On the other hand, strong weight cutter cows continue to command urgent demand and are selling relatively higher than good beef cows. It is true that the market has been very irregular and that the spread between medium and choice slaughter steer is widening, but at this writing practically everyone is bullish.

Poor feeding conditions in many areas throughout the winter undoubtedly are partly responsible for the scarcity of highly finished cattle. Many experienced feeders had all they could do at times to hold weights, but recently they have been reporting good gains. The attractive prices have brought cattle to Chicago from a wide area, some having been reported from Canada and Arkansas, as well as from other distant sections.

California is furnishing an increasing number of cattle at many slaughter and market centers in that state, so that the west coast influence at some of the markets in other areas is not so pronounced as a month earlier. However, some of

the western markets are reporting more eastern shipper buying, together with good local packer outlet, so that the general situation in most markets is as healthy as it is at Chicago. Some of the choice steers purchased at Denver were shipped alive to New York.

Around the middle of April slaughter steer prices looked unevenly 50 cents to \$1.25 higher, but undoubtedly many of the choice heavy steers are up more, as scarcity of big weights has made them more popular than a month ago. Heifers and beef cows showed almost as much gain as the "rank and file" of steers, but canners and cutters were only steady to 25 cents up. Bulls displayed slight improvement. Vealers after considerable fluctuations sagged about \$1 from the high spot, but heavy slaughter calves reversed this trend and worked higher.

Any number of choice heavy slaughter steers have been grossing considerably above \$200 a head, and one load from Iowa averaging 1,733 pounds at \$16.40 grossed over \$281 per head. The new top was \$16.70, paid for Illinois fed offerings averaging 1,447 pounds. There were no other steers above \$16.50 and yearlings did not have finish enough to pass \$16.25. Any number of strictly choice 1,200- to 1,400-pound steers scored \$16 to \$16.25, and medium-to-good light weights bulked at \$11.25 to \$15, although common kinds were to be had below \$10.50. Colorado steers with weight sold up to \$15.50 and Wyomings were noted at \$15.10. Good 1,332-pound steers from Arkansas landed at \$14.60. Some 1,370- to 1,400-pound Canadian steers cleared at \$13.75 to \$14 and others around 1,250 pounds made \$13 to \$13.25.

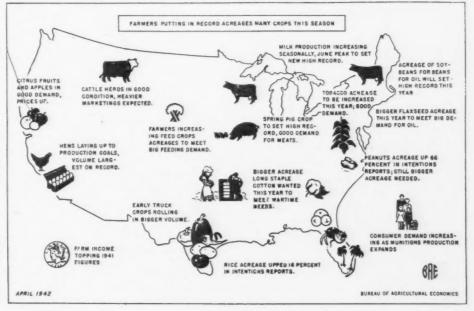
Some choice grain-fed heifers at Chicago scored \$14.40 to \$14.75, but most of the time the run of heifers consisted largely of those obtainable at \$11 to \$13, a fair quota landing at \$13.50 to \$14.

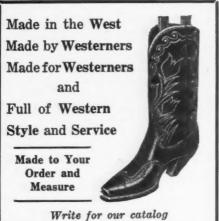
Many of the medium-to-good cows landed at \$9.25 to \$10.25 and a few strictly good kinds scored \$10.75 and above. Weighty cutter cows closed around \$8.75 to \$9 and light kinds at \$8 to \$8.25. Although strong weight canners made \$7 to \$7.50, there were many thin light lots below \$6. Bulls reached \$10.75 when good and carrying weight, but not many passed \$10.50 and there were times when sales were chiefly from \$10.25 down. Although vealers scored \$15 and above periodically, the late limit was around \$14.50.

Most of the medium-to-good fat steers at Omaha cleared at \$11 to \$13.50, although several choice loads landed at \$14 to \$14.75 and sales were not uncommon at \$15 and above. The top was \$16.25 on choice-to-prime 1,269- to 1.471-pound weights. Others of comparable grade and ranging from 1,115 to 1,475 pounds scored \$15.75 to \$15.90, and among the owners of those at the latter price was a man who obtained as high as \$19.10 during the last war. Medium-to-good heifers bulked at \$10.75 to \$12.50 and some choice offerings made \$12.75 to \$13.50. Medium-to-good cows sold largely at \$9 to \$9.75 but some reached \$10.25. Bulls in the main were to be had below \$10. Choice vealers were reported at \$14 to \$15.

Kansas City reported steers up to \$15 and numerous loads from 1,000 to 1,300 pounds at \$14 to \$14.75, yearlings topping at \$14.50. Medium-to-good steers bulked at \$11 to \$13.50. The practical top on heifers was \$14 for heavy Colorados, but a few sold as high as \$14.25 and other medium-to-choice scored \$10.75 to \$13.50. Cows were not very plentiful above \$9.50, and bulls occasionally passed \$10. Vealers topped at \$15.

Choice 1,340-pound Colorado fed steers at Denver reached \$14.30, freight paid, and other good-to-choice scored \$12.50 to \$14. On a flat basis, the top was \$13.25, and common to good kinds us-





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ually sold at \$10 to \$13. Choice 1,000to 1,050-pound heifers made \$12.40 to \$12.50 and most of the medium-to-good kinds were secured at \$11 to \$12.25, although on early days of the period several medium loads landed at \$10.50 and below. One load of 1,127-pound cows topped at \$10, but not many others passed \$9.25, although strong weight cutters easily made \$8 to \$8.25. Canners below \$6.50 were scarce, as were bulls above \$10. Most choice vealers continued to bring \$16, and the extreme top was \$16.50.

Common-to-choice steers at St. Joseph were reported at \$10 to \$14.25 and choice heifers sold as high as \$14. Medium-to-good cows landed at \$8.75 to \$10, with a few up to \$10.50. Mediumto-good steers at Sioux City were taken at \$10.75 to \$13.25 and some reached \$14 while heifers went downward from \$12.15. Choice 1,072-pound steers at St. Paul reached \$15 and medium-to-good kinds were taken at \$10.25 to \$13.75. Heifers topped at \$12.75 and cows sold as high as \$10 while heavy bulls reached \$10.50. Best vealers landed at \$14 to

Sharply rising prices for slaughter classes made it easy to dispose of replacement cattle at Chicago and elsewhere. In a general way mid-April prices at Chicago were 50 cents to \$1 higher than a month earlier, and light cattle at many centers showed greater upturn. Demand is good for thin cattle for grazing purposes, but there was increased outlet for fleshy and weighty feeders. Reports from Kansas indicate that pastures are well taken for the season and that state should have a big crop of cattle to market in late summer and early fall. Missouri is well out of cattle for the time being but is buying replacement cattle rapidly. Supplies at the markets have not been heavy and quick absorption of the run developed daily. Many men have been operating in Texas, usually taking yearlings and little stock.

Average cost of stocker and feeder steers purchased at Chicago during March was \$11.27 against \$9.78 a year ago, but current weights were slightly heavier. Kansas City reported a cost of \$11.47 for March this year and \$10.29 for March last year. The average cost for January to March, inclusive, was \$10.74 and \$9.75, respectively, at Chicago and \$10.93 and \$10.16, respectively, at Kansas City. Steers of all weights taken for stocker and feeder purposes from Chicago, Kansas City, St. Paul, and Omaha showed an increase in March compared with a year earlier, the most gain having been noted on animals in the 801- to 900-pound weight group.

Most of the steers taken at Chicago for country purposes were reported at \$10.75 to \$12.25, although some choice yearlings around 600 pounds scored \$13.50 to \$13.90. Fleshy weighty feeders were secured at \$12.75 to \$13.45. No steer calves were attractive enough to

pass \$14.25. Common-to-medium steers went out from Omaha mainly at \$10 to \$11.25 but good kinds often made \$11.50 to \$12 and some 800- to 1,000-pound feeders were cleared at \$12 to \$12.75. Good-to-choice yearlings and calves sold at \$12 to \$14.25, the calves mixed in being practically short yearlings.

Short yearlings and calves in Kansas City were taken out up to \$13.75 and bigger yearlings reached \$13.25 and some fleshy feeders sold at \$12.40. Most of the medium-to-choice stocker and feeder steers landed at \$10.25 to \$13. Calves sold downward from \$13.75 but choice kinds were absent. Medium-togood steers were secured in St. Paul at \$9.50 to \$12.50, although common kinds went down to \$8.50. Good calves sold at \$12.50.

Country buyers paid \$10 to \$12 for medium-to-good steers at St. Joseph where some yearlings reached \$12.50. Good calves scored \$12.50 but toppy kinds were not available. Sioux City reported 578-pound yearling steers up to \$12.75 and good calves as high as \$13. Choice 610-pound heifers went out at \$12,40.

Strictly good-to-choice light yearling steers went to the country from Denver at \$12.25 to \$13.25 and many mediumto-good steers sold at \$10.50 to \$11.75, those with weight and fleshy enough for feeder purposes selling largely at \$11 to \$11.50. Some heifers scored \$11 to \$11.25 but the bulk landed at \$10 to \$10.75. Stock cows of medium-to-good grade usually sold at \$7.50 to \$9 but thin common lots sold below \$7. Heavy steer calves topped at \$14.75 in the absence of choice kinds and many landed at \$12 to \$14.50. Very light weight good-to-choice mixed steer and heifer calves scored \$15 to \$16.50 and hardly any straight heifer calves passed \$13.

The hog market continued its upward swing, and during the last month the price advantage was sharp. The big gain carried prices to new highs since 1926, and it will take only a little more advance before values will go back still farther. Supplies have not been heavy but weights are showing some increase. This apparently is unimportant, as killers take hogs of all weights of goodto-choice grade almost on an equal basis, with the exception of underweights, for which there is little call at this time even at the current discount. Evidently buyers are after poundage.

The hog-corn ratio is high at this time. For March at Chicago 100 pounds of pork would purchase 16.4 bushels of corn as compared with 15.4 bushels in February and 11.6 bushels in March, 1941. Number 3 yellow corn at Chicago in March averaged 81.7 cents per bushel as compared with 65.6 cents a year earlier.

The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation up to and including April 4 this year has purchased 753,750,000 pounds of cured, frozen, and canned pork. The purchases of lard for the

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Every day someone talks of the hog prices reacting downward, and occasionally the market works lower, but for some unexplainable reason new strength develops and soon the market is on its merry way. Temporary ceiling prices for dressed pork undoubtedly will act as a check on the maximum level ahead, but the supply has been disappointingly small.

Best hogs at Chicago on April 1 sold at \$13.75 as compared with \$13.15 a month earlier. Soon the top climbed above \$14 and by April 8 the new high figure was \$14.55, after a temporary break was reported, but immediately the market recovered and \$14.50 was scored freely. At the end of the second week of April it was largely a \$14.10 to \$14.50 market for good-to-choice 180- to 360-pound barrows and gilts, and chiefly a \$14 to \$14.35 deal for good-to-choice 300- to 500-pound sows. These figures readily show that sows are worth almost as much as best hogs under present conditions.

Although cattle and hog markets were pushed sharply higher, it took a struggle on the part of producers and sellers to bring about any advance in slaughter lamb prices. The season for the fed lambs is far from over and the first range spring lambs of the year have put in an appearance at many markets. With the exception of natives, these spring lambs are coming from Arizona, California, Texas, and Utah. One week recently, over 40,000 California spring lambs went through the Ogden and Salt Lake City gateway. Around the middle of April there were around 400,000 old-crop lambs in the feed-lots of Colorado and Nebraska—or any eximately 160,000 more than a yearlier.

Trading in nev crop lambs in California has stepped up greatly of late and many of the purchased are nate that going eastward. bs in the 85 to 90 per cent Bakersfield area and the west side of San Joaquin Valley have been sold from first hands. West coast slaughterers have been taking quite a number, but largely the movement is to the Midwest. Sales were largely at \$11 per cwt., f.o.b. loading points, with deliveries ranging up to mid-April. Spot sales of fat lambs topped out of bands were at \$11.25 to Straight-across contracts on mixed fat and feeder lambs were at \$10.25 to \$10.50, with a 60-pound minimum. Some straight feeders were reported at \$10. Some fat lambs were contracted for late April and May delivery at \$11.

Heavy lambs continue marketward unabated, but owners cannot hold them back any longer as some of them are passing 120 pounds. The finish on the big lambs is highly satisfactory, but consumers as a whole will not show any interest in dressed lamb with too much weight. This picture probably will not change during the remainder of the sea-

son, although any rise in prices for light and medium weight lambs is certain to carry over to the big lamb to some extent. Mid-April prices for slaughter lambs at Chicago were around 50 cents higher than a month earlier, and slaughter ewes showed 25 to 50 cents upturn following a good market for months on matured sheep.

After slaughter lambs of good-tochoice grade at Chicago hovered around \$12.25 and less, the market improved and finally a few loads scored \$12.75 to \$12.85 and quite a number on different days went at \$12.40 to \$12.60. The late bulk of good-to-choice lambs of various weights was \$11.90 to \$12.60 but most of those from 100 pounds down sold upward of \$12. There were some 115- to 120-pound lambs of comparable grade at \$11.20 to \$11.40 and on the low spot some sold down to \$11 and below. Shorn lambs sold largely at \$9.75 to \$10.60 but some with number one skins sold as high as \$11.25. Most of the native spring lambs were in odd bunches selling downward from \$13, although scattered bunches passed \$14. Range spring lambs at various markets cleared at \$12.10 to \$13.25; the bulk, at \$12.50 to \$12.75.

Cooperation for Victory—

Through cooperation in marketing, nationally organized livestock producers reached an all-time high in volume and value of cattle, hogs and sheep sold through their own sales agencies in 1941.

These agencies, operating on 37 markets, large and small, handled over 130,000 decks of cattle, hogs and sheep which brought cash returns of more than \$216,000,000

Gratifying as these figures are, and as efficiently as this livestock was handled, still greater economy and enlarged services are possible with increased volume.

During this war and after the boys come home, cooperation is indispensable.

National Live Stock Marketing Association

160 N. LA SALLE STREET CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Slaughter ewes topped at \$8.10 at Chicago, where many good-to-choice offerings were secured at \$7 to \$7.75, although there were some sales at \$8. Common kinds went below \$5.50. Usually sales of ewes at other markets were from \$5.50 to \$7.50, although culls went below \$4. Hardly any yearling wethers are coming marketward now.

Demand for feeding lambs has been irregular and recently not many lambs have appeared at the markets suitable for feeding purposes, although country buyers have had access to several loads suitable for shearing purposes. market for feeding and shearing lambs at Chicago and some centers was practically nominal, but at Denver and Omaha where fair supplies were available prices appeared steady to strong, good-to-choice lambs going out largely at \$10.50 to \$11.35, although a few made \$11.50 and higher and medium kinds sold at \$10 and down.

WOOL PRICES HIGH; HIDE MARKET QUIET

By H. W. F.

CONTRACTING OF WOOL CLIPS IN the western area has been active for some time and prices have surpassed those of other years in many sections. It is reported that wool prices in the West are about 5 cents per pound above a year ago and the best in fourteen. years. Based on current prices, farm income from the 1942 clip probably will equal or exceed the record income of \$147,000,000 in 1918. Under present maximum price regulations, little advance from present levels is anticipated.

Unfilled orders for wool cloth held by 119 mills on December 31 were 50 per cent larger than a year earlier. More than half the orders held at the start of 1942 were for government account and it is easy to understand the importance of army orders to the industry. Orders for fabric for civilian use declined sharply during the latter half of 1941 and the decline probably will continue.

It is estimated that there will be need for 200,000,000 pounds of scoured wool

LAFF-A-DAY



the folks!" for the men in the armed forces in addition to wool now being processed for use of the present army. Supplies of wool

on hand in the United States, including the 1942 production, are the largest in many years. Production of wool in twelve Southern Hemisphere countries in 1941-42 is estimated at 2,350,000,000 pounds against the record of 2,360,000,-000 pounds in the 1939-40 and 1940-41

seasons.

The Boston wool market recently was fairly active, and a number of manufacturers who had submitted bids on the new army orders were in the market covering part of their requirements for domestic and foreign wools. A large volume of sales was reported and many manufacturers took options for later needs. The undertone was firm.

Fleece wools were in demand. Fine combing Ohio delaines sold mostly at 47 to 49 cents, in the grease. Fine clothing wools were taken at 39 to 41 cents. Graded half blood combing bright wools sold at 48 to 50 cents. Graded threeeighths and quarter blood bright fleeces went at 52 to 53 cents. Low quarter blood common and braid wools were scarce, quotable nominally at 50 to 52

Moderate quantities of graded fine territory wools were held at \$1.16 to \$1.18, scoured basis, for average-to-good French combing. Good-to-choice French combing was quoted at \$1.18 to \$1.20. Graded fine clothing wools went at \$1.05 to \$1.10. Original bag territory wools sold at \$1.15 to \$1.18 for bulk average-to-good French combing, and at \$1.12 to \$1.15 for average-to-short French combing. half blood combing scored \$1.13 to \$1.16, and graded three-eighths blood at \$1.03 to \$1.06. Graded quarter blood combing wool made 95 to 98 cents. Quotations on low quarter blood common and braid wools were mostly 90 to 93 cents.

Original twelve-month Texas wools were taken at \$1.15 to \$1.18, scoured basis. Texas eight-month wools were

quiet at \$1.06 to \$1.10.

Some spot lots of adult mohair found outlet at 60 to 65 cents. Kid hair had little demand and was quoted mostly at 80 to 85 cents.

HIDES UNEVEN

The market for hides was uneven but mostly quiet during the past month, and most of the time packers took their time in apportioning their production. Toward the close of March there was slight activity and many of the large packers distributed their productions. Some New York concerns sold their hides gathered in March. It was more or less of a nominal market at or around ceiling levels. Permits were issued for purchase of South American hides but stocks were reported closely sold.

Shoe production continued large, although the big end of the business was for the use of the armed forces. Much leather has been used for shoe repairing. Demand for hides undoubtedly will equal the supplies as the months go by.

Quotations on hides which are largely nominal are as follows: Heavy and light native steer and native cow, 151/2 cents; branded steer and branded cow, 141/2 cents; Colorado steer, 14 cents; and native bull, 12 cents. Packer kipskins were quoted at 171/2 to 20 cents and packer calfskins at 231/2 to 27 cents.

All-weights were quoted at 14 cents, extremes at 15 cents, and bulls at 93/4 to 10 cents, with branded hides at 131/2 to

WHR

Country hides were quiet throughout. 14 cents.



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By DAVID I. DAY

L EAVING HENDERSON, KENTUCKY, very early on a drizzly March morning, we motored briskly over U. S. 41 into Hopkinsville, seat of Christian County, one of the best cattle counties of western Kentucky. Folks in the farming districts surrounding the city were talking of the big April sale at the farm of U. L. Lovell & Sons near Henshaw, interesting because this fine herd is the joint product of the efforts of a father and five or six stalwart sons.

The Christian County Hereford Association is a very active body. There are a number of nationally known white-face aggregations in this part of the state and the owners are not only cattle-conscious but they are very much breed-conscious as well. A lot of commercial cattle are in the feed-lots, being wintered on alfalfa and lower-quality roughage and some grain. There will probably be more beef cattle marketed from this part of the world in the fall of 1942 and the spring of 1943 than has ever been the case.

So down to Nashville, with considerable whiteface and Angus cattle feeding along the highway, and certain nice lots of commercial Shorthorns on feed, too. The predominant interest observed in most of these lovely hill communities is in Jersey cattle, and some of the finest of the little purebred island cows are owned in the Nashville trade territory. A side drive west of the city took me into Humphreys County, near Waverly. This appeared to me to be one of the heaviest hog and beef cattle feeding territories in this state. The feeder prices are high there, as elsewhere, and there is very noticeably a certain wariness on the part of farmers about purchasing complete replacements as needed for their fields and feed-lots. However,

the older feeders and the biggest ones in that vicinity will doubtless buy about the same number of western calves this year as they did last year.

"Nearly all the beef cattle fed out in this county are purchased as feeders in Nashville," commented one prominent grain farmer and cattleman. "After they receive the proper feed-lot finish, we take them back to the same city for marketing. I know of one or two men who have home herds and raise a few feeder calves locally, but they cut no ice in the business as a whole. I would say that fully 90 per cent of the beef cattle in Humphreys County are Herefords."

There are only about fifteen calves fed in 4-H work in the county this year, it was said. Most of the feeding interest of the 4-H clubbers is in pigs and chickens. Driving back to the city we paused awhile in Dickson to talk to friends who are making good with beef cattle in that lovely limestone locality. The situation there is much the same as about Waverly.

about Waverly.

Last spring, in driving from Shiloh Battlefield to Nashville, I told our readers in the Producer of the situation south of the city, around Franklin and Columbia. This trip took me over part of the same mileage, with the same general conditions prevailing. Folks in this famed livestock region are all out for national defense in no uncertain fashion and are determined to produce more meat, milk, and butter this year than ever in history.

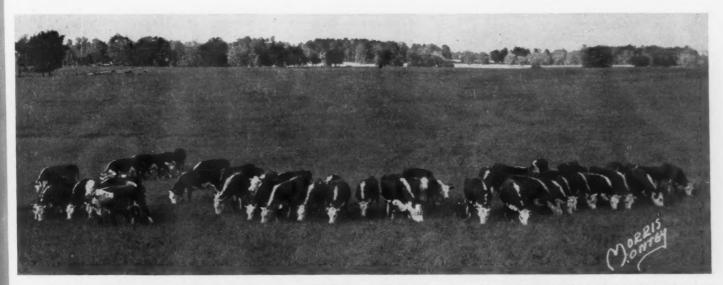
Over U. S. 31 into Pulaski (population 5,314) famed the world around as the address of Milky Way Farms, built from the Mars candy bar fortune, and the home of fine cattle and fine horses. The show place is nine miles south of town. A little after leaving this charming vicinity the car crosses the state line into Alabama, and we are in Athens—a little city of almost 5,000 people, with some of the most beautiful ante bellum homes in Dixie. It is an old college town,

the seat of Limestone County—a cotton region in which last year were produced about 36,000 bales of the fleecy fiber. I was shown three local cheese plants which take milk from about 900 farms. Despite the competition of cotton and dairy cattle, however, there are unmistakable evidences of increasing interest in beef production.

In the main, it is not a beef finishing country as yet. Feeder calves are being brought in, grazed, fed out, and marketed—a few more every year—and there is some interest in the development of farm herds in the county. There are some twenty-five beef herds so maintained—cows and farm bulls of good quality, so far as we inspected. There are two weekly auction markets locally. One of them in 1941 handled a total of \$462,000 worth of farm livestock. As one drives over the roads of Limestone County, he is impressed by the vast amount of lespedeza grown there. It is seen on nearly every farm. There is some bluegrass, some orchard grass, and some white clover grown, too. It was said that in the case of these permanent pasture plants it is impossible to produce much feed with them without liming and phosphating the land.

"We grow quite a lot of corn, some oats, and some of the other small grains," explained one of the county's most active beef feeders. "I have fed calves from the 'black belt' of south Alabama and some from west Texas, always Herefords. Some of my neighbors the last few years have fed out Angus, but there are virtually no Shorthorns in our feed-lots of late years. I have a trench silo and like it, but the idea never took hold here like it did in many localities. I think there are not more than thirty-five of them in our entire county."

Frankly, here on the larger farms in Limestone County should be produced a great many more feeder calves for fattening in the Corn Belt, and that may come to pass one of these days. On the



Summer pasture scene, Lambert and Sons' farm, Darlington, Alabama—pioneer herd of Polled Herefords in the South.



A cool pasture on the Milky Way Farms

smaller farms and the more expensive and more productive farms, the feedlots should carry the cattle all the way to the fat market. Quite a lot of land in the county is valued at \$100 an acre or more, but some of the acreage is available at around \$30, and good grass grows on it, too.

Leaving Athens with the sun low, we motored into the fine industrial city of Decatur, some 16,000 population, on the southern bank of the Tennessee River. The Keller Memorial Bridge is widely known for its beauty. Near-by is the Joe Wheeler Dam and not far away is the old home of the military leader after whom it was named. We enjoyed a fine evening meal and drove ahead to Birmingham, the great steel center of the South. It has today about 260,000 people and appears to be growing rapidly—limestone quarries, coal mines, and iron mines everywhere.

But no beef cattle. So we headed southward again, still using U. S. 31, passing through Clanton, where we paused long enough to see a couple of fine power dams across the Coosa River, thence into Montgomery, one of the most beautiful and most historic of all southern cities. The city is situated on a sizable bluff overlooking the headwaters of the Alabama River. At the outbreak of the Civil War, it became the capital of the Confederacy. We saw the state capitol building, once the capitol structure of the Jefferson Davis government. The home of the revered Confederate president is also shown to all visitors. Today, with a population of nearly 80,000, it is the center of a great agricultural district, and, since the development of so much electric power in the vicinity, it is becoming a manufacturing center of importance.

Of greater interest to us is the fact that Montgomery boasts proudly of being the "Cow Town of the South." At the time of our visit, all eyes were directed at the April south-wide sale of AberdeenAngus cattle there, with forty-four bulls and sixteen fine black cows listed. It was openly declared that this was really the opening gun of the big drive to make the black cattle more popular in Dixie, and the Hereford men were accepting the open challenge with a smile. A part of the offsetting technique was to show all comers the fine Hope Hull herd of registered whitefaces out some nine miles south of the city-a truly great breeding ranch, with V. V. Beau Burton 11th, chief herd sire, ready to be exhibited at any time. The noted place is owned by F. W. Hooper and managed by W. H. Sheean.

So we pushed on to Greenville in Butler County where we found comparatively few beef cattle on feed or being produced. In the entire county there are not more than fifty farmers whose main source of income is from beef cattle. However, there are some nice cattle in spots, the idea being to run them on the good permanent pastures of the locality, consisting largely of dallis grass, Lespedeza, and white Dutch clover. Black medic is a native legume found in many Butler County pastures, and this furnishes good grazing, especially in the early spring. The cattle observed in the region will be run on grass and sold off the pastures in September or October for further feeding, possibly in northern Alabama or in grain-producing sections of Tennessee.

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A great many farmers and feeders in northern states are not familiar with either dallis grass, black medic, or kudzu, a perennial legume, which is fast increasing in popularity in many parts of southern Alabama. For their information, I will say that dallis grass is a broad-leaved bunch grass of an erect type and one that seems to do best on heavy, moist soils. It seems to resist drought better than Bermuda grass and has a longer growing season. You see this plant to some extent pretty well all over Alabama. Black medic is a legume that grows fine in the lime soils of southern Alabama's black belt. It requires inoculation to start on new areas. It is a good seed producer, and many beefmen told me they wouldn't think of sowing a mixed pasture in their part of the country without at least one-third of the mixtures being black medic. Kudzu is a viny creeping perennial legume, very leafy and evidently highly palatable, as cattle really go for it. It is highly drought resistant. It is never included in pasture mixtures, as it grows best by itself. One cattleman with a large acreage of kudzu said the only drawback to it was that it must be grazed carefully or the cattle will kill it out. He said kudzu hay was the best hay he has ever fed to beef cattle.

Going down from the Ohio River to the Gulf of Mexico, there are three welldefined districts. In Kentucky and Ten-



Winter pasture scene, A. C. Hartley herd, Cecil, Alabama.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

nessee, for the most part, the farmers are interested in marketing their grain and hay on foot. The chief activity is, therefore, fattening out calves for the markets in Nashville, Louisville, and other points. These calves come as 350-to 500-pound weights, are roughed through a winter, pastured a summer, and fed out intensively, often making market-toppers. Calves from Nebraska, Arkansas, southern Alabama, from Colorado and Montana, from the highlands of Texas and from eastern New Mexico, are grown up and fed out on the bluegrass hills underlaid with limestone.

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In northern Alabama some cattle are fattened and others sold to be fattened by others, with the tendency toward carrying the animals all the way. Cotton is still king, but diversified farming is making vast strides, and with this sentiment comes more and better beef cattle.

In southern Alabama an increasing number of beef cattle and animals with a plain beef cross are observed on the lush black belt pastures. Mostly they are sold off grass for fattening farther north. It is a land with great future possibilities in this direction. The summers are long and humid, the insect situation is bad, there are ticks, and disease often creeps in; but there are many advantages. The main need now is for improved quality in feeder calves.

We noted all the way down that the South is becoming self-sufficient in the matter of breeding stock, particularly Hereford breeding stock. The purebred registered breeders are making the Corn Belt men look to their laurels in state fairs and livestock shows. It is now a good place to get range bulls acclimated to warm climate by three or more generations.

Leaving Greenville, Alabama, we traveled through Evergreen and Brewton to the Florida state line, where we took U. S. 29 into Pensacola, now a hustling city of more than 38,000 population. It is in Escambia County, adjoining Escambia County in Alabama. In both these twin counties we saw concrete evidence of an interest in better beef cattle.

Pensacola is an old Spanish city, the fine deep harbor having been discovered by the Spaniards back in 1516. Here and there are reminders of old Spain but, in the main, it is a city fairly overflowing with modern ideas and modern improvements. It is indeed difficult to believe that this is one of the very oldest towns in the United States when you motor through the beautiful residential districts, the industrial districts, the retail part of the city, and the harbor where ships sail in and out flying the flags of all nations in times of peace.

After a day and night of rest, we drove over the counties of Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton, visiting northern friends now permanently located in the vicinities of Milton, Milligan, Crestview, and DeFuniak Springs and seeking information relative to the cattle situation in that part of Florida.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	April 1, 1942†	March 1, 1942	April 1, 1941	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	126,025,000	130,818,000	73,329,000	61,726,000
Cured Beef*	20,246,000	19,592,000	17,044,000	17,693,000
Lamb and Mutton, Frozen	8,104,000	8,122,000	4,378,000	4,224,000
Frozen Pork	279,795,000	298,158,000	393,421,000	289,952,000
Dry Salt Pork*	84,322,000	82,071,000	107,252,000	88,671,000
Pickled Pork*		236,375,000	284,714,000	273,587,000
Frozen and Cured Trimmings		116,025,000	82,955,000	86,685,000
Total Meats		891,161,000	963,093,000	822,538,000
Lard		201,900,000	310,406,000	211,051,000
Rendered Pork Fat		4,665,000	8,279,000	******************
Frozen Poultry			126,904,000	106,496,000
Creamery Butter			8,983,000	23,683,000
Eggs (case equivalent)			2,781,000	2,847,000
*Cured or in process of cure. †Sub	ject to revision	n.		

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

April 15, 1942	March 15, 1942	April 15, 1941
Slaughter Steers—Choice (1,100-1,500 lbs.)\$15.00-17.00	\$14.25-15.50	\$12.50-14.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	11.75-14.25	10.50-12.50
Slaughter Steers—Choice (900-1,100 lbs.) 15,00-17.00	14.50-15.50	12.50-14.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	11.75-14.25	10.50-12.50
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.) 10.75-13.00	10.00-11.75	8.75-10.75
Fed Young Steers—GdCh. (750-900 lbs.) 13.00-16.75	14.50-15.50	10.75-14.50
Heifers—Good-Choice	11.25-14.50	10.50-13.25
Cows—Good	9.25-10.00	8.00- 9.00
Vealers—Good-Choice	14.00-15.50	10.50-12.50
Calves—Good-Choice	10.00-11.25	8.00-10.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice 11.50-14.00	10.75-13.00	9.75 - 12.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—ComMed 9.50-11.50	8.75-11.00	7.75-10.00
Hogs-Med. Weights (200-240 lbs.) 14.15-14.65	13.40-13.60	8.60- 8.90
Lambs—Good-Choice	11.50-12.15	10.50-11.00
Ewes—Good-Choice	6.75- 7.85	6.50 - 7.50

CHICAGO WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL-	April 15, 1942	March 16, 1942	April 15,1941
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	21.50-23.00	\$20.00-21.00	\$17.50-19.50
Steer—Good	20.00-21.50	18.50-19.50	16.00-17.50
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	21.00-23.00	20.00-21.00	17.00-19.50
Steer—Good		19.00-20.00	15.50-17.50
Yearling Steer—Choice	21.00-22.00	20.50-21.50	17.00-19.00
Yearling Steer—Good	19.50-21.00	19.00-20.50	15.50-17.00
Cow—Commercial	16.00-16.50	15.50-16.00	13.50-14.50
Veal and Calf—Choice	19.00-21.50	20.00-22.00	16.50-18.00
Veal and Calf—Good	17.00-19.00	18.00-20.00	14.00-16.50
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Lamb—Choice (all weights)	16.00-20.00	16.50-20.50	15.00-18.00
Lamb—Good		15.50-19.50	14.00-17.00
Ewe—Good	10.00-11.00	10.00-11.00	10.00-11.00
Ewe—Commercial	9.50 - 10.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loin—8-12 lb. average	27.00-30.00	24.00-25.50	17.00-18.00

LIVESTOCK AT STOCKYARDS

	Ma	March		First Three Months	
Receipts—	1942	1941	1942	1941	
Cattle*	1,282,435	1,063,288	3,710,188	3.130.065	
Calves	458,919	439,451	1,286,907	1,286,250	
Hogs	2,693,583	2,649,243	8,860,186	8,201,646	
Sheep	1,865,904	1,520,252	5,191,735	4,657,194	
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†	, , , ,	,,	-,,	-,001,202	
Cattle*	458,745	395,172	1,296,806	1.158,413	
Calves	153,679	149,096	455,390	467,647	
Hogs	689,560	699,896	2,431,969	2,279,508	
Sheep	721,410	629,546	2,104,901	1,912,953	
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMEN	TS-	,		-,,	
Cattle*	213,530	194,783	606,178	563,307	
Calves	50,195	56,021	168,041	174,033	
Hogs	51,545	47,806	158,103	153,307	
Sheep	164,406	130,796	487,872	407,281	
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL	INSPECTION-			,	
Cattle*	929,000	766,000	2,877,000	2,374,000	
Calves	491,000	444,000	1,323,000	1,239,000	
Hogs	4,134,000	3,904,000	13,857,000	12,146,000	
Sheep	1,669,000	1,408,000	4,687,000	4,423,000	

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

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ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN RANGE AND LIVESTOCK REPORT

FEED ON WESTERN RANGES WAS fair to good and moisture conditions were generally good for starting new feed, except in parts of the Southwest and California, according to the April 1 report of the Denver regional livestock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Range feed conditions were better than a year ago east of the main range, except in Texas. They showed a lower condition in the seven far western states. Cattle and sheep continued in good condition and had suffered only light shrinkage.

Dakotas, western Nebraska, The western Kansas, and Colorado had good range feed with good supplies of soil moisture. In Montana, cold weather delayed new feed, but moisture ample. Oklahoma and New Mexico had good range feed. Surface moisture, however, had dried rapidly, but there was good subsoil moisture. In Texas, cold, dry, windy weather delayed growth of new feed, with surface moisture needed in central, north-central, southern, and western sections. Utah and Nevada had good range feed and ample moisture to start new feed. In Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, new feed had been delayed by cold weather, and more than the usual feeding was necessary. These states had sufficient moisture to start range forage. In Arizona, new feed was delayed by cool weather. California's new feed was in below-average condition and failed to show the usual seasonal improvement due to cold, windy weather and lack of moisture.

The reported condition of feed on western ranges was 2 points below a month ago and 4 points below the relatively high figure of a year ago, but 5 points above the average condition of the past ten years. Usually the reported condition of feed on western ranges shows an improvement during March There was also more than the usual decline in the condition of range feed from last fall to April 1. The delayed starting of new feed and the long feeding period resulted in more than the usual use of hay and other feeds. This resulted in lowered carry-overs and higher feed prices, particularly in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, California, and Utah.

The reported condition of feed on western ranges on April 1, 1942 was 81 per cent, compared with 83 per cent last month, 85 per cent a year ago, and the ten-year (1932-41) average of 76 per cent.

Cattle and calves were generally in good condition. Cattle showed a slight decline during March, which was largely due to late starting of new feed and

longer feeding than usual in some sections. There were few thin cattle, as cattle wintered well after going into the winter in very good flesh. Winter losses were light and calf crop prospects generally favorable. Strong demand was general for stocker and feeder cattle but sales were not large. The supply of grass-fat beef in California is expected to be smaller than last year.

Sheep wintered generally in good condition but did not show the relatively high condition of a year ago. In the northern states east of the main range, sheep were in nearly as good condition as a year ago, also in Utah and Nevada. In Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, sheep showed a lower condition than a year ago and considerable shrink due to late starting of new feed and late feeding. In Arizona and California, sheep were in a lower condition than a year ago but in good flesh. Texas sheep conditions were fair to good, but range feed in the sheep section was only fair and considerable feeding had necessary. Development of early lambs was not so good as last season in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Conditions have not been favorable for early lambs in Texas. Arizona early lambs have developed well. California early lambs were not so good as last season. The percentage of feeders was larger. Late lamb crop prospects were generally good in the northern areas with fair to good prospects in Texas. Wool selling and contracting was active during March.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

More than \$800,000,000 worth of farm commodities were bought by the Agricultural Marketing Administration during the first year of the Department of Agriculture's expanded purchase program, March 15, 1941, to March 15, 1942, the department has announced. Totaling more than 7,500,000,000 pounds, these commodities were bought largely as supplies available for shipment to the United Nations under provisions of the Lend-Lease Act. They also included supplies for the Red Cross, for territorial programs, and for domestic distribution to low-income families and for school lunches. Meat, dairy, and poultry products represented more than half of all purchases made. These animal proteins have been basic on the list of essential commodities for lend-lease shipment, with the United States agreeing to furnish 25 per cent of the protein requirements for Great Britain. More than 1,000,000,000 pounds of meat products, largely pork and lard, valued at over \$237,000,000, were included. Eggs and dairy products ran to 1,750,000,000 pounds, costing \$282,000,000. Dried and canned fruits and vegetables, cereal

products, canned fish, many miscellaneous food products, and non-food supplies were included in the year's buying. Most of the non-food items, such as cotton, tobacco, and naval stores, were made available by the Commodity Credit Corporation for lend-lease operations.

HEALTHY FARM DEBT SITUATION

Although the farm mortgage debt is approximately 50 per cent larger than at the start of the last war, farmers have entered this war with a comparatively healthy debt situation, the Farm Credit Administration reports. The agency cited a 3 per cent decrease in the total mortgage debt since the beginning of the present war period in 1939 in contrast with a 24 per cent increase from 1914 to 1917. It said that because of only a slight change in the farm mortgage interest bill in recent years, the greatly expanded farm income of 1941 and the prospective income of 1942 meant that the debt burden should be substantially lower in the next few years; "that is, a smaller portion of the farmer's income will have to go to his creditors than formerly." The aggregate amount of farm mortgage debt outstanding by all types of lenders, private and public, was estimated at \$7,000,000,000.

MORE EFFECTIVE MARKETING

A program designed to make more effective use of existing trade channels and government resources of marketing and distribution to obtain the widest possible commercial utilization of seasonally excessive supplies of perishable farm products or of supplies affected by market gluts or wartime bottlenecks has been announced by the Department of Agriculture. Operations will include (1) making available more precise production information so as to facilitate more definite planning of grower harvesting and marketing operations, and advance planning of buying and merchandising by the distributing trade; (2) establishing closer relationships with producer and trade groups and state and other federal agencies for more effective action in dealing with marketing and distribution problems; and (3) making available to consumers information to stimulate wider distribution and encourage increased consumption of farm products in need of this assistance.

OSAGE-BLUE STEM PASTURE REPORT

Osage-Flint Hills pasture feed prospects are good, with active leasing at prices 15 to 20 per cent higher than last season, according to the Denver regional livestock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Acreage guarantees per head are smaller than last year and recent years, indicating improved pasture feed. Pastures are expected to be

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May, 19.

filled. Lease prices in the Blue Stem (Flint Hills) are considerably above last year's prices and are: steers and cows, \$6.50 to \$10 per head; young cattle, \$3.50 to \$7. In the Osage pastures prices are slightly more than \$1 per head above the prices last year and bulk of the lease prices for steers and cows range from \$6 to \$7.50; for young cattle, \$4 to \$6.

FARM REALTY VALUE UP

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Farm real estate increased in value \$2,360,000,000 during the past twelve months under the influence of rising farm product prices, a record war demand for food, and a brisk land market, according to the Department of Agriculture. Total value was estimated at \$36,-000,000,000, equivalent to a 7 per cent gain.

INCREASED PLANTINGS

The Department of Agriculture report of 1942 plantings shows that all leading crops except wheat should increase over the 1941 acreage. Flaxseed acreage was up 20 per cent; sugar beets, 24 per cent; soybeans, 41 per cent; and peanuts, 66 per cent-sharpest gain of all. Soybeans, flaxseed, and peanuts provide a good substitute for many vegetable oils formerly imported.... The world may have a larger supply of wheat this year than ever before, according to the federal experts. This is because the surplus existing in the world's four leading exporting nations—the United States, Canada, Australia, and Argentina-is the largest of record.

Other countries will hold only small stocks. The world, exclusive of Russia and China, is expected to have a carryover of about 1,590,000,000 bushels of old wheat when the 1942 crop is harvested. The United States is expected to have a wheat surplus of 1,425,000,000.

POOLING FARM LABOR

A joint arrangement between Canada and the United States to provide more effective use of agricultural resources has been approved by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister W. L. Mac-Kenzie King of Canada. The agreement provides for (1) increased production of oil-bearing crops such as soybeans in the United States and of oats, barley, and flax in Canada; and for (2) facilitating seasonal movement of farm labor and machinery across the common boundary. Both nations are confronted by a shortage of fats and oils. Increased oats and barley acreage in Canada will provide more adequate feed supplies for the expanding Canadian livestock program. Greater soybean production will be possible this season in the American Corn Belt, as acreage normally used for feed grain production can be shifted without impairing feed resources, it is stated.

HAVE CONTENTED CATTLE

Automatic Currying and Dipping Machine

When cattle or hogs are bothered with itch, flies, mosquitoes, or other insect pests, they will not gain weight as quickly as when they are rid of these discomforts. Animals that are free from skin irritants are comfortable and contented. They naturally grow and fleshen more quickly and look better when marketed.

The Automatic Currying and Dipping Machine will free your cattle of grabs and other skin irritants. If you own one of these machines, your stock will not use fences and buildings to scratch on. They will use this machine, which curries and oils them at the same time.

The Automatic Currying and Dipping Machine is sold in every state where cattle or hogs are raised. If you are a cattle feeder or breeder you owe it to yourself to see this proven machine.

READ THIS TESTIMONIAL:

READ THIS TESTIMONIAL:
Automatic Currying and Dipping Machine Co., Pender, Nebraska.

Dear Sirs: I have been using two of your machines for the past year and can say I am well pleased with the results. They keep lice and warbies off of the cattle and they are much more contented. This summer I installed one out in the pasture field and it kept the flies off of the cattle. While installing the machine, the cattle would watch their chance to use it before it was completely installed.

(Signed) E. G. Petty, Prospect, Ohio.

We invite investigation.
Write to any feeder,
rancher, or dairyman who
is a user of the Automatic
Currying and Dipping Machine.

See your local dealer or write to the factory for prices and descriptive literature.

Automatic Currying & Dipping Machine Co., Pender, Neb.

DO YOUR OWN WELDING

3 Models . . . \$60 to \$125 **OPERATES FROM YOUR 32 VOLT LIGHT PLANT**

Make hay tools, auto gates, branding tools; repair machinery, stock tanks, windmills; save expensive trips to town when in a hurry. Catalog on request.

See your dealer or order direct from Good-All Elec. Mfg. Co., Ogallala, Nebr.



Prevent Abortion Losses

By vaccinating your calves 4 to 8 months old With ANCHOR Abortion Vaccine

Price per 5 cc. dose.. ..35 cents \$0.07 per dose

...06 per dose Anti-Hemorrhagic Septicemia Serum1.80 per 100 cc. Mixed Bacterin Bovine, Formula No. 1 (5cc. dose)06 per dose (This new product has incorporated in it some of the organisms formerly contained in the pink eye and pulmonary bacterins) Coli-Enteritidis Bacterin....

(To be used for treatment and prevention of calf scours)

One 10 cc. syringe and two needles FREE BOOK: Send for a copy of our "Vaccination Simplified" booklet, also latest price list on all products.

Order from nearest ANCHOR dealer

If your local drug store does not handle ANCHOR products, write us

Anchor Serum Company

SO. ST. JOSEPH, MO.

W. J. KENNEDY, Vice-President and Sales Manager The World's Largest Anti-Hog-Cholera and Animal Vaccine Plant

CATTLE ON FEED

THE NUMBER OF CATTLE ON feed for market in the eleven Corn Belt states on April 1, 1942, was 2 per cent smaller than a year earlier, according to the Department of Agriculture.

This is the first year since 1937 that the number on feed on April 1 was below the number of the previous year. The decrease from last year was largely in the five states east of the Mississippi River, in all of which numbers were down. In all the states west of the river, except Iowa, the number on feed was larger than last year, with the largest increases in the states west of the Missouri River.

Reports showed that about 71 per cent of the cattle had been on feed over three months. This proportion compares with 72 per cent shown last year and 68 per cent in 1940. Indications are that the monthly supply of fed cattle during the

next four or five months would be about the same this year as last.

Marketings of fed cattle during the first three months of 1942 were of record size for this period and included a record proportion of long-fed cattle. Evidently in view of these heavy marketings and the small decrease shown in the numbers on feed on April 1 this year compared with last there were more cattle on feed in the Corn Belt on January 1 this year than on January 1, 1941, rather than the decrease of 3 per cent shown in the January cattle-on-feed report. The relatively large proportion of cattle in feed-lots on April 1 this year that had been on feed over three months also supports this con-

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt during the first three months of 1942 indicate that the total was at least as large as the record movement for these three months in 1941, with shipments from stockyards markets larger and direct shipments smaller.

LETTERS

SPRING BREAKING FAVORABLY

Spring is breaking slowly but favorably. Prospects are good for early pasture and range but there is not enough snow for all-summer supply of water. Considerable inquiry exists for stock cattle but practically none are for sale locally. Demand for yearling heifers for about June 1 delivery is keen. The threatened shortage of ranch help may affect production on ranches and farms. Hay is generally plentiful for the remainder of the winter.—COKEVILLE LAND AND LIVESTOCK Co., Lincoln County, Wyo.

NICE WINTER

We have had a very nice winter here in southwestern North Dakota, with very little cold weather and not much snow up until March 1. Cattle are in good shape for this time of year. The calf crop and grass should be good this spring. We have a lot of moisture due to the heavy rains last fall and heavy snow within the past two weeks. We look forward to receiving the PRODUCER. Keep up the good work .- OTTO C. and KARNES JOHNSON, Slope County, N. D.

THINNER AND WEAKER

Cattle are thinner and much weaker this spring than they were a year ago. There are quite a few early calves. We are having lots of wind and the country is getting pretty dry. Stock will pull through the spring without much loss. There are no sales in this section, and probably will not be until fall.-JAMES A. Cosper, Greenlee County, Ariz.

LOTS OF MOISTURE

The snow has just begun to melt steadily now and there will be lots of moisture in the ground for the coming year, and it looks as though there will be plenty of feed on the range. Livestock has wintered well.-Anton Gor-NICK, Sweetwater County, Wyo.

WATER OUTLOOK GOOD

We have had a long, hard winter here and just about enough feed and no more than enough, even with last year's excellent hay crop. There is more snow than usual in mountains and a good outlook for water .- HERVEY COOK, Broadwater County, Mont.

CONDITIONS NONE TOO GOOD

Conditions have not been any too good. We have had a long, cold winter and a very cold spring. So far cattle have wintered fairly well; no losses to speak of .- R. H. COWLES, Washoe County

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—Why ALL Stockmen Should Be Members of The American National Live Stock Association . . .

- The American National is your representative in Washington on all national matters and legislation affecting the range-cattle industry.
- The American National maintains a traffic bureau which has for many years rendered immeasurable service to stockmen through maintenance of the 85 per cent stocker and feeder rate and many other major cases, the most recent resulting in only a 3 per cent increase in freight rates on livestock campared to 6 per cent on practically all other commodities. Added to this is tariff watching, handling of freight claims, and other services.
- The American National has been active many years in public-land and forest matters and over a year ago initiated the movement which led to the public-land investigation now under way by the McCarran committee functioning under Senate Resolution 241.
- The American National sponsored the passage of the McCarran anti-theft act, which law is proving to be of untold value to stockmen by virtue of the fact that now the transportation of stolen cattle in interstate commerce is a federal offense.
- 5. The American National co-operates with your state associations in the handling of many problems affecting the industry in this western territory.
- 6. The American National works for all stockmen, whether they belong or not, and therefore all stockmen should do their part by becoming members and thus present a united front of range-cattlemen on all matters.

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